

Getting down to mobility problem

Harold Cragg gets down to the grass roots of the wheelchair scene for The Spastics Society's Patron, H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent. The Duchess had just opened the tenth International Hospital and Health Service's Exhibition at Earls Court, which caters for all branches of the health service and attracts some 20,000 visitors from all over the world.

Our stand

The Society had a prominent stand featuring the revolutionary Newton "E" wheelchair made at the Society's Meadway Works, Birmingham. The theme was mobility for the disabled and a pictorial display about Habinteg, the Society-sponsored housing association for the disabled, formed a backcloth to the electric wheelchair.

The Duchess spent a considerable time on the stand, chatting to the Society's Director of Resources, Mr. Derek Lancaster-Gaye; Mr. Bob Miller, General Manager of Meadway Works, and Mr. Cragg, the factory manager.

Said Mr. Lancaster-Gaye: "The Duchess was very interested in the chair and tried her hand at pushing it. She was very impressed with its lightness and also asked about Habinteg and the integration and mobility of the disabled in society generally."

As she left, the Duchess said: "I shall follow this with great interest."

Our picture, above, shows Mr. Derek Lancaster-Gaye, Mr. W. R. Kern, Exhibition Director; the Duchess; Mr. Cragg and, in the background, Mr. Miller.

Honours for Alyn in his battle for acceptance

ALYN HASKEY, a 22-year-old severely handicapped spastic, thinks that there are three hard tasks in life: "Getting a Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, getting a University place, and getting accepted by society in general!"

On Tuesday, June 4, he went to Buckingham Palace to receive his Duke of Edinburgh Gold; he has heard that he has been accepted by York University, and he said: "Though all three challenges are equally hard, I think the most satisfying is being accepted by others."

Alyn, of Wilford View Hostel for the physically handicapped, West Bridgford, Nottingham, will read history and sociology when he goes to York in September.

He looks on it as the latest chapter in his life-long fight against odds—for he started off in a school for the educationally subnormal. Alyn said: "I see life as a challenge and I like taking up challenges. Being in a wheelchair does not mean you can't take part in life to

the full. That is the foundation of my belief."

York University authorities have promised to make any adaptations necessary to the buildings so he can live in at college. At the end of his honours course he hopes to become a lecturer.

"I have thought about this, and I don't think it is necessarily a good idea for me to limit myself to teaching handicapped people. If you have a gift you should spread it around. I would be happy to teach anyone who happened along."

He accepts that people regard him as an example of just what the handicapped can do. "It is a pity that I am handicapped and that I hit the headlines in this way, but perhaps if people see what I have done, other handicapped people will be able to achieve even more success."



Duchess of Kent to visit Spastics Games

JULY sees a Royal first and an international first in the world of sport for spastic athletes. On July 8, H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent, Patron of The Spastics Society, will make her first-ever visit to the Society's National Spastics Games being held at Reading University.

Later in the month the International Games will be staged for the first time. Held at Crystal Palace, it will be a two-day event starting on July 22.

There are also two firsts in the events in the two Games, with the introduction of the long jump and the high jump. This is an experiment to see how competitors manage, and there will also be the traditional events such as wheelchair slaloms, tricycle racing, and other field and track sports. Both the games will be run as closely as possible to A.A.A. rules.

Area heats

Throughout June the area games have been held up and down the country, including Wales and Scotland for the first time. From the 1,200 competitors, 230 have been chosen for the National Games.

The Games will be opened by Mr. Derek Lancaster-Gaye, The Spastics Society's Director of Resources, and Chairman of the Sports and Leisure Section of the International Cerebral Palsy Society. At the end of the day the Duchess of Kent will present prizes to the winners. Fifty of them will be selected to go into the British team for the International Games and compete against spastics from West Germany, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, France, Italy, Switzerland and the U.S.A.

The sporting spirit

The joyful picture, left, displays the spirit of spastic athletes—a spirit which will be the order of the day at the Spastics Games. Picture shows John Bicknell triumphantly crossing the finishing line to win the tricycle race on sports day at the Society's Meldreth Manor School, near Royston, Hertfordshire.

Keyboard queens raise type-in cash



Susan Steptoe and Joan Gosling are champion fund-raisers in the latest form of sponsored event—the type-in.

Susan and Joan, together with 10 of their colleagues at the offices of Nestles in Croydon, stayed for an hour after closing time one evening to take part in the event. Judges checked the typists' work for mistakes and these were deducted from the total inches typed.

A total of £130 was raised for The Spastics Society's Coombe Farm adult residential centre at Croydon. Susan and Joan, who are both 16, joined the company only nine months ago, straight from school, and between them they raised £57 from sponsors.

Picture by courtesy of Croydon Advertiser

Local lottery law could be a "disaster" for charities

THE PASSING by the House of Commons of the Local Revenue Bill which would permit local authorities to run lotteries, could be a disaster to voluntary bodies such as The Spastics Society, which relies heavily on its charitable football pool for money to help run its schools and centres for handicapped children and adults.

Indeed, if the Bill is accepted by the Lords and becomes law, with money being diverted from charity to local authority coffers, the Society could be forced eventually to close some of its centres and cut back on the number of other essential services to some of the country's most heavily handicapped people.

That is why the Society considers that the Government

must now accept the urgent need for sweeping financial reforms to benefit charities, and especially those bodies that subsidise statutory and local government by very large sums each year.

Says the Society's Director, Mr. James Loring: "We are absolutely sick and tired of Governments of all political colours paying lip service to voluntary effort and then tying one hand behind our backs."

"This lip service is amply illustrated by the fact that our voluntary schools for the handicapped, all recognised by the Department of Education and Science, must pay VAT on their purchases, while the State school providing education for able-bodied children escapes the tax. What justification can there be for such blatant discrimination?"

The Society feels that the public has been somewhat misled about the financial effects to them of free-for-all lotteries.

Picture by courtesy of R. H. Edge

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Ruth Draper, Local Appeals Officer for the Society's West Region, lines up some of the participants in a sponsored swim held by pupils of nine Plymouth schools. At the time of writing the event had raised £514.41 for the Trengweath Spastics Centre at Plymouth, and more money is still to come from sponsors.

Gulliver the peacock challenged shop's "we sell anything" boast

THE woman who called at the Pembrokeshire Spastics Society's shop was direct and to the point. "You said you could sell anything" she told Mrs. Val Gau who runs the shop, "so we've brought you something to sell."

She led Val to the Range Rover parked outside and opened the door. Inside was a full grown and very splendid peacock. Without more ado Val took the bird, Gulliver by name, under her wing. He strutted about the Gau back lawn while Val frantically phoned friends and contacts throughout the country to find him a permanent roost.

Gulliver is now settled, no doubt noisily, into a new home, the Society is £15 better off and Val is wondering what will be the next surprise. She found she could have sold Gulliver several times over and, while prepared to sell anything, would prefer a little more notice before the next exotic creature is brought to her door.

The sale of more mundane articles has already brought more than £4,000 into the shop in less than a year and the Western Telegraph newspaper commented: "It says a lot for the generosity of the people of Pembrokeshire. It says a lot more though, for the dedication and sense of humour that personifies Val Gau."

The Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics has launched an appeal for trading stamps or used postage stamps so that 28 young spastics in wheelchairs can go for a holiday in Scandinavia next year. The group is planning to spend one week in Copenhagen and another in Stockholm.

All stamps will be gratefully received by Miss M. N. Mennie, Warden, Scotsraig Residential Home, 18 Park Road, Paisley, Renfrewshire, PA2 6JW.

A model garage made by Mr. George West, a retired carpenter aged 70, was among the items auctioned at the Spring Fayre held by the Devon and Exeter Spastics Society. The total amount raised by the event is expected to be over £500.

Staffordshire Pigeon fanciers have presented cheques totalling £250 to the North Staffordshire Spastic Association. The money was raised by members of the Milton and District Homing Society and the N.S. Homing Pigeon Fanciers.

Margaret Powell at Dene Park

Margaret Powell, well-known for her humorous books on domestic service, opened the annual fete organised by the Friends of Dene Park this year. Dene Park is the Society's further education centre at Tonbridge, Kent.

Events at the fete included a display of folk dancing, an exhibition of first aid by Tonbridge Red Cross and a sponsored walk by students of the centre.

Music was provided by "Tuesday's People," and there were many stalls and side shows for which prizes had been donated by local firms.



NEWBROOK School honours the name of two women who, despite massive disadvantages, struggled to teach children in the old Spastics Unit at Princess Margaret Hospital, Swindon.

Mrs. Jo Brookes, for three years the teacher in charge, and welfare assistant, Mrs. Margaret New, who has been at the Unit for four years, have said good-bye to a "school" which consisted of a single room off the physiotherapy department and an annexe.

The room accommodated six children and the annexe served as toilet, cloakroom and teacher's office. Everything took place in the one room, from "nappy changing to meals." The outdoor play area was two floors down, which was difficult for the handicapped children to reach. Once there they had to play quietly because it was near the recovery room attached to the operating theatre.

Mrs. Brookes and Mrs. New were installed with five of the children recently in a purpose-built Pratten classroom, as part of Penhill Infants' School on the outskirts of Swindon.

Said Mrs. Brookes: "The classroom is more than twice the size of our old room and very slightly adapted to the children's needs. There is a special toilet area with several toilets which the children greeted with glee. I have a separate office and we are surrounded by a grass play area. It is really wonderful and, best of all, we are part of an ordinary school." As it is, one of the children has already gone straight from the unit to an ordinary school.

"We plan to integrate and we are starting off with a film show, and gradually the children will join the assembly for the whole school. Sharing lessons is something to think about

Miss Audrey Holder, a resident of the Society's Coombe Farm Centre at Croydon, sells tickets for a fashion show to Mrs. Pat Lane. The show was held in aid of Coombe Farm at the Greyhound Hotel, Croydon.

Miss Holder, who was one of Coombe Farm's earliest residents, has lived at the centre for 16 years.

Picture by courtesy of Croydon Advertiser

New school after struggle to teach in "appalling conditions"

for the future," Mrs. Brookes added.

Hopefully, the room adjoining the classroom which had been allotted for further education, will be made over to the Newbrook School as a treatment room.

It was last September that plans were first made for the new school. It was estimated that the proposed hatted accommodation would cost about £500, but building costs have escalated dramatically.

The name of Newbrook was chosen by the parents of the handicapped children. "It wasn't my wish at all," said Mrs. Brookes. "The children are absolutely delighted with their new school and said they would strike if they were sent back to the old unit."

Their ages range from three and a half to eight. "I had hoped that the nursery children would be separated from the infants, but the authorities

decided that the unit I had been using to teach in—at one time 11 children from tots to 16-year-olds—was totally unsuited for any educational purpose and it is now standing completely empty."

Mrs. Brookes went on: "The conditions were absolutely appalling with constant disruption, and I'm sure it held the children back. Now in the new school they will have a chance to really improve."



Lesson time in the bad old days when Mrs. Jo Brookes had to teach her children in "appalling conditions." Now they have a new school. Picture by courtesy of Wiltshire Newspapers, Swindon.

People do stare—so put your best face forward

Here is a shortened version of an entry which gained a "Special Commendation" from the judges in the 1973 Megan du Boisson Memorial Competition run by the Disabled Income Group. It is written by Anne Plummer, Spastics News reporter.

PEOPLE are going to stare at the disabled anyway, so they might as well have something attractive to look at, for in this fast-moving world first impressions are all-important.

Many of those in residential centres, for example, are rendered unnecessarily hideous by the fact that they have lost their teeth early in life and have not been provided with artificial replacements. The toothless wonder will be summed up at first glance as an oddity, perhaps, where his actual physical impairment might have passed unnoticed.

Likewise, a short-back-and-sides haircut on a young man immediately signals "institution" to the onlooker. I once met two lads in their early twenties from the same residential centre. One, with hair to his collar, was in a wheelchair and quite severely handicapped. The other was ambulant and much less affected by disability, yet he looked the more "freakish" of the two, simply because of his work-house crop.

Apart from the fashion angle,

long hair has an economic advantage, for few disabled men can afford to spend money on regular visits to the barber. A healthy tan will also do much to dispel the sickly "hospital" image which is often wrongly associated with disability. The sunshine helps to clear up minor skin blemishes and, for women, does away with the need for heavy make-up.

Cosmetics

Even in winter, however, it is not necessary to spend a lot of money on cosmetics. Nowadays, all manufacturers are forced by law to conform to specific standards and, unless one has the type of skin which is allergic to certain ingredients, the cheapest cosmetics on the market are just as effective as those with "status" names, though women with shaky hands may find they have to pay a little more for a brand which is easier to apply.

Lipsticks in chunky cases can be grasped more firmly in unco-ordinated fingers and roll-on mascara is sometimes easier to cope with than the block kind. Eye make-up is essential for spectacle wearers, and it is not difficult to apply, using a magnifying mirror. Baby lotion is a useful money-saver as it can be used for cleanser, foundation and moisturiser.

Hairdressing is a problem and I have rarely met a woman, dis-

abled or otherwise, who was satisfied with her natural tresses. But here again fashion has come to the rescue of awkward fingers. Present-day straight styles are cheap and easy to cope with, while slides are ideal for keeping front locks out of the eyes.

Wigs in man-made fibres have improved tremendously over the last few years. They are easy to care for, have lost that artificial over-glossy sheen which appeared so ugly in the early days, and look more natural than wigs made with coarse Asian hair. However, most wigs tend to be hot and heavy in wear and are not really suitable for women with a head tremor. Either the elastic must be stretched to migraine-inducing tightness, or the mildness of the start can send one's elegant hair-do flying across the room.

Clothing fashions of the 1970's are very much on the side of the disabled, and the trend towards informality in dress can be a god-send. Separates are perhaps the most economical way of dressing for both sexes, as one can ring the changes with two or three colourful tops on a basic skirt or pair of trousers.

It does no harm to be adventurous with colour and styles. Chunky rings and bright nail varnish, for instance, will draw attention to mis-shapen hands, but many would consider this outweighed by the psychological advantages of such adornment. Surely it is better to hear, "Look at her, done up like a dog's dinner" than "Look at that poor soul, tragic isn't it?"

Women can save a great deal of money by making their own clothes. Although this is obviously impossible for those with severe hand defects, a friend or relative can often be persuaded to run up simple styles. Street markets are a

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Gifts from firms please youngsters



Children at the Spastic Day Centre in Stafford had a surprise gift of oranges recently. Donna Dodson, 4, and Susan Thacker, 2½, are pictured with Sheila Longden, matron of the centre and John Poynts, manager of the supermarket which presented the fruit.

Picture by courtesy of Stafford Newsletter.



The Social Club of Johnson Matthey Chemicals, Cambridge, has presented a slide to Appletree House at the Society's Meldreth Manor School, near Royston.

Pictured, right, is Mr. B. S. Cooper, Works Manager of Johnson Matthey Chemicals and President of the firm's Social Club, helping a child use the slide. On the left is Mr. A. W. Brown, Principal of Meldreth Manor School.

Photograph by R. H. Edge

Cheque from Sister Susie Club—again

Once again the Sister Susie Club of Swansea has presented a cheque for £500 to the Swansea Spastics Association. The club has now raised more than £6,000 for the group over the past few years.

Cathedral play by students

Students from Hereward College of Further Education for the Physically Handicapped recently performed a play about disability called "Ready Salted Crips" at the Loft Theatre, Leamington and at St. Michael's Hall, Coventry Cathedral.

The Coventry performance was part of the Cathedral's regular "Sunday at Seven" programme, a creative celebration which uses a variety of imaginative resources including music, liturgy and drama.

The script of "Ready Salted Crips" was devised by the disabled Hereward College students themselves in rehearsal, describing their own experiences and talking about their own relationships.

Ambassador's lady plans to help handicapped children

Handicapped children in London may soon be receiving lessons from a speech therapist who must be one of the most widely travelled members of her profession. She is Mrs. Nurit Rafael, wife of the Israeli Ambassador to Britain who was appointed last January.

Diplomatic wives, constantly on the move, often find it difficult to pursue careers of their own, but Mrs. Rafael is determined to make use of her professional skills in whatever part of the world she finds herself. She has worked with the handicapped in Israel, Belgium, Switzerland and the United States. She now plans to work at least one day a week at a children's hospital in London.

Therapy

In 1946, Mr. Rafael was a delegate to the United Nations Organisation in New York, and his wife was doing voluntary hospital work in the city when a severe polio epidemic broke out. Nurit Rafael met many children who had lost their speech as a result of the disease, and decided to train as a speech therapist at Columbia University.

During her husband's second tour of duty in America she worked part-time at the New York Cerebral Palsy Clinic and also studied methods of teaching adults who had undergone laryngectomy as a result of



Mrs. Rafael

cancer—work which she has successfully continued in Jerusalem.

Her work among children in Israel has been mainly confined to the mentally handicapped, who included a few spastics. She told me that there is a flourishing Cerebral Palsy Association in Israel, which provides treatment and education for spastics from the age of two onwards. This is a voluntary organisation but, like The Spastics Society in Britain, it works closely with the statutory authorities, and some municipalities now provide their own special schools for the handicapped.

Achievement

The Israeli Cerebral Palsy Association has been in existence since 1958. I remarked that this seemed quite an achievement in a new country which had had to face so many other problems. Mrs. Rafael said that Jewish people have a strong sense

of community and an acute awareness of other people's needs. This caring spirit reflects the importance of family life in Israel.

She herself has two grown-up children—a married son who is a lecturer in law at Tel Aviv University, and a daughter trained as a social worker who is now studying art history at Jerusalem University.

Language

Nurit Rafael was born in Germany, but moved with her parents to Palestine before the 1939 war. She speaks perfect English—obviously an important consideration for a speech therapist. She told me that all native-born Israelis learn a second language at school so that they can communicate with people from other countries, but Hebrew is the official state language and everybody who wishes to live in Israel must learn it. The government provides Hebrew lessons for all immigrant families from the day of their arrival—a system which might usefully be adopted in Britain.

During this interview, Mrs. Rafael was called away for a few minutes. When she returned she told me that an Israeli visitor to London had come to say goodbye before flying on to

America. He was a young man of 21, who had been blinded in the October war. His injuries had also deprived him of the senses of taste and smell.

Mrs. Rafael was full of admiration for the way in which this young man had come to terms with his new disabilities. She said that a few days before she had taken him to Westminster Abbey, where he had discovered all kinds of interesting items which many sighted tourists miss. One of these had been an inscription carved in Latin, Greek and Hebrew, on which he was able to trace the words with his fingers. He had also found the monument to Lord Byron and had been able to tell Mrs. Rafael more about the poet than most English people know.

He would like to teach mentally handicapped children and has now gone to America for training in this field.

"He called to thank me," said Mrs. Raphael. "I should be thanking him."

Anne Plummer

A "driving licence" for David

In the picture, below, David Grundy, a naval recruit from H.M.S. Mercury at Portsmouth, removes the L-plates from Lee Driver's Chairmobile and hands him a "driving licence."

The Chairmobile was presented to the cerebral palsy unit at Cosham a year ago by recruits from H.M.S. Mercury, who had raised the money with a sponsored walk. Last month the sailors paid a return visit to the centre to see how the children had mastered the controls.

Lee, aged nine, and Christopher Harris, eight, both displayed their skills on the chair and were presented with proficiency certificates signed by the Commanding Officer at H.M.S. Mercury.

Picture by courtesy of The News, Portsmouth



Vandals end model fund-raising idea

Vandalism has meant that Oxford Spastics Society will no longer benefit from a display of model windmills which has been visited by thousands of sightseers over the past 10 years.

The windmills, in full working order, were made to scale by Mr. John Wilde, who kept them on view during the summer in his roadside cottage garden at Watlington, Oxfordshire. Most of the people who stopped to admire them placed a donation in a collec-

ting box for spastics, but now Mr. Wilde has decided to put his windmills away for good.

Some youths started bashing the propellers to make them turn on a windless day, and when Mr. Wilde remonstrated with them they became aggressive. Later, when he went out for a few hours, one of the windmills and a model gipsy caravan disappeared.

Said Mr. Wilde: "I just felt so sick and disgusted that I decided to take them all down."

ERIC BOON FIGHTS ON—FOR SPASTICS

To thousands of boxing fans, the fight in which Eric Boon punched his way to victory in the British Lightweight Championship bout of 1939, is the fight of the century. He was 18 and the youngest ever British champ.

Now, 35 years later, Eric is still making money from the fight—this time for The Spastics Society. He travels the country showing films of

the contest, together with other historic boxing films. They include the Mohammed Ali—Henry Cooper epic in which Cooper knocked down the World Heavyweight Champ. There are fights involving Joe Louis, Primo Carnera, Max Schmelling and many other all time greats. He has one of the best collections of boxing films in the country.

"It all began in December last year when I was at a char-

ity function where a film of my big fight was shown," said Eric, who lives at Chatteris in Cambridgeshire. "This gave me the idea to build up a collection of films of some of the major fights to show for charity."

"Since then the bookings have come flooding in. Mainly I show to working men's clubs, and service clubs such as the Lions, Rotary, and so on. I have had audiences of up to 700 people, all wildly enthusiastic about the fights."

A small admission charge is made and from this Eric takes only his expenses. A percentage of the profits goes to The Spastics Society, and the remainder goes to a charity nominated by the club at which the films are being shown.

"Seeing my big fight against Arthur Danahar really takes me back," said the former champ. "I lost the first seven rounds, and then put Danahar on the floor 13 times before the fight was stopped in the fourteenth."

By popular request—your summer cookery special

READERS WERE quick to notice that our shopping advice and cookery feature had not appeared for the past two months, and not only wrote asking why, but pleaded for its return. Unfortunately, the cookery was squeezed out because of pressure of space on our news columns, but returns today, by popular request, with down-to-earth advice on the best buys in fresh food, and three simple, tasty recipes that won't put too much of a strain on your purse.

Sunshine and holidays, salads and strawberries . . . that's July! Or, at least how we like to think of it. Of course, there are the inevitable snags, such as the shopping and cooking, rain storms, and not having as much money as we wished we had. Still, by and large, it is a happy month.

One thing is for sure: there is plenty of home-grown food about. Salad ingredients are

abundant and of top quality. Lettuces, cucumbers, tomatoes, baby globe beetroots, salad onions, radishes, celery, are all to be had. For value see they are fresh. A limp, stale lettuce has no flavour and you have to throw a lot of it away. Cucumbers that are flabby aren't to be recommended, nor, apart from cooking purposes, are over-ripe tomatoes. Large-sized salad onions and radishes are fine when they are crisp and in

peak condition. Remember, though, they are "hotter" than the smaller ones.

Fruit is delicious, and there is so much of it. Strawberries, plus cherries, gooseberries, raspberries, loganberries, currants and cultivated blackberries, not forgetting, later in the month, the first pickings of the new season's cooking and eating apples. These apples are very welcome and are full of juice and sweetness. On the whole, however, early dessert varieties are inclined to lose flavour quite quickly after they have been picked, so follow the advice for new potatoes and buy them little and often.

Vegetables

Talking of new potatoes, they are easy to get and as good as ever. Always handle them carefully because, like all young things, they can be easily damaged. New carrots and turnips are equally well worth getting.

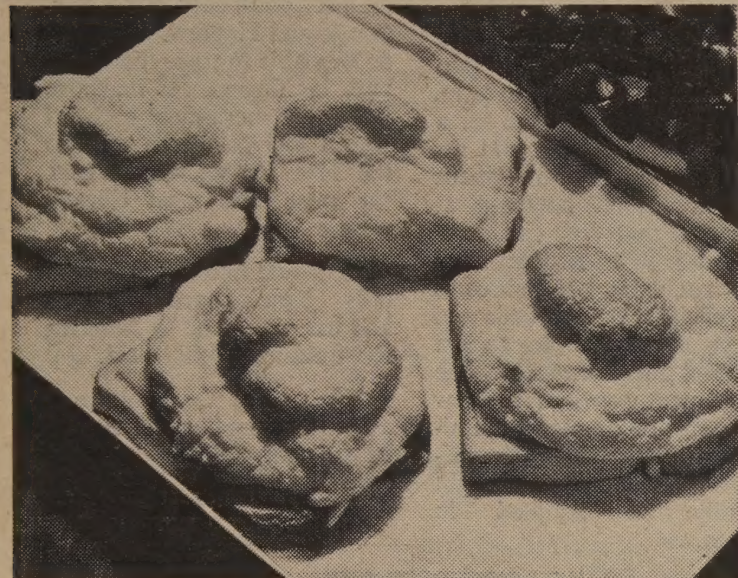
Greenstuffs are first-class, and again the choice is wide. Cabbages, "caulis," courgettes, spinach, marrows, peas, broad beans, French beans, runner beans, globe artichokes, are in the shops and, really, as the old song went, "Who could ask for anything more?"

All of this does help to make planning meals so much easier, and provide opportunities for saving money. Below is a recipe making full use of seasonal produce that certainly won't break the housekeeping bank!

salt and pepper, watercress, for garnish.

Toast the slices of bread on one side only. Turn them over and place slices of cheese on the untoasted sides. Separate the eggs, add salad dressing to the yolks, and beat until they are light. Add salt and pepper to the whites and beat until stiff. Fold the yolk mixture into the whites. Pile on top of the cheese. Bake in a moderate oven (375°F, Mark 5), for 15 minutes until puffy and brown. Garnish with watercress and serve.

N.B. It is simplicity itself to adapt these quantities for more or fewer servings.

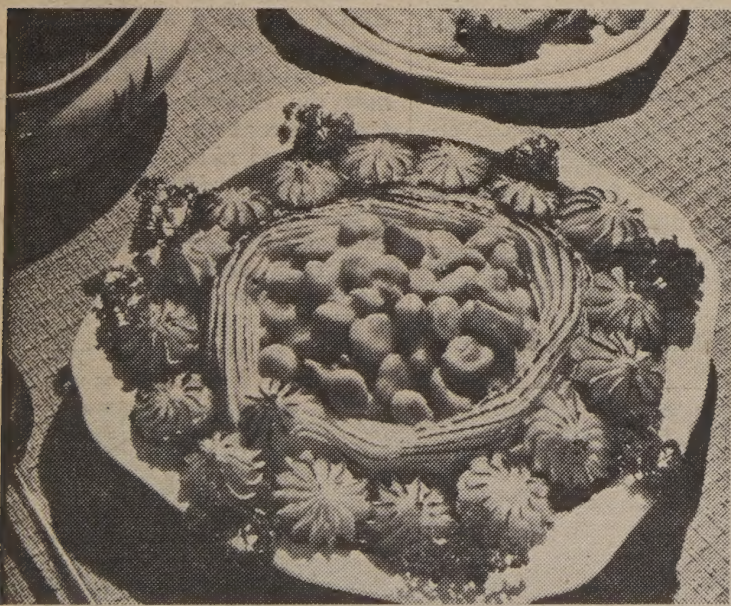


Cheese Sandwich Souffle

It's always when time is pressing, or funds are low, or when ideas are short, that children suddenly develop even larger appetites than usual. Here is a recipe that copes with any such situation. It is quick and easy, delicious for high tea, supper or mid-day, and, what's more is just right for a time when older children are left to cope on their own.

CHEESE SANDWICH SOUFFLE (serves 4)

4 British eggs, 4 slices of bread, 4 slices of home-produced cheese, 4 dessert spoons salad dressing,



Garlanded Beans

We all know just how mouth-watering any of our tender young vegetables are, so good, in fact, they deserve special treatment. Here is one way to make the most of our tasty broad beans:—

GARLANDED BEANS

1 lb. boiled potatoes
1 oz. flour
1 egg yolk
1 lb. shelled broad beans
1 onion
2 oz. butter
1 pint stock
3 oz. bacon (piece of flank suitable)

Drain and dry the potatoes, pass through a sieve, add egg yolk, 1 oz. butter and seasoning, beat well.

Melt the other ounce of butter in a pan, add the chopped onion and the diced bacon, and cook a few minutes without browning. Sprinkle on the flour, stir and add the stock. Stir again and add the beans. Cook 15-20 minutes until the beans are tender.

Pour the sauce and beans into the potato ring and garnish with parsley or watercress. Serve with grilled rashers of British or Ulster bacon.



COURGETTES COUNTRY-STYLE

8 courgettes
8 British eggs, hard-boiled
1 lb. broad beans
1 pint coating white sauce
Salt and pepper
4 oz. home-produced cheese, grated

Wrap each courgette in kitchen foil after sprinkling each one with salt and pepper. Bake at 450 deg. F, Mark 8, until just tender. Slit each courgette down the centre, arrange slices of egg in each. Place in fire-proof dish. Add cooked beans (sieve them first if they are over-mature) to the sauce, pour over the courgettes. Top with the cheese and brown in the hot oven, or under a hot grill.

Gift from taxi firm

Radio Cabs, a taxi firm in Oldham, Lancashire, has presented £170 to the local Heath Bank Spastics Centre. The money, which was raised at a dance held by members of the firm's staff, will help to pay for a covered verandah extension at the centre.

Firms and stars in Scottish walk



Employees of leading Scottish commercial organisations and banks took part in a "Top Firm" sponsored walk organised by the Stars Organisation for Spastics (Scotland).

More than 180 competitors tramped around a 4½-mile circuit in Pollock Park, Glasgow. A show business team led by comedian Larry Marshall, Chairman of the Scottish S.O.S., included fellow comedians Johnny Beattie and John Mulvaney, together with Kay Rose (Mrs. Larry Marshall), Lavinia Derwent and medal-winning Olympic swimmer Bobby McGregor.

The oldest participant was Robert Brown, 64, of Paisley, who completed 32 miles and is expected to have earned between £400 and £500. The youngest person taking part was seven-year-old Paul Templeton, son of the works manager of the firm for which Mr. Brown works. Paul completed four circuits and raised £16.

Picture shows spastic John Taylor from Scotsraig Residential Home, Paisley, who was pushed round one lap of the course in his wheelchair. He is seen with, left to right, Johnny Beattie, Bobby McGregor and Larry Marshall.

Gifts in memory of devoted mother

Mrs. Babs Tudor, who devoted her life to her spastic son Eddie, a former pupil of The Spastics Society's Thomas Delarue School, and to the welfare of handicapped people generally, died earlier this year from cancer at the age of 52.

Friends were asked to make donations to the Oxfordshire Spastics Welfare Society rather than send flowers, and £200 was quickly raised. So great was the interest in her Memorial Fund that the Society decided to extend the appeal and has approved two schemes.

The first is to screen and furnish a portion of the present multi-purpose room for older spastics at the Society's Day Centre to give them a "sitting room." The second project is a sitting out area for fine weather use. The area would be paved and have bench seating and raised rose borders. It is hoped that the local College of Education's Building Department will help to carry out the work at cost.

Donations to the Mrs. F. A. Tudor Memorial Fund should be sent to: Mrs. D. Wiggins, 136 The Moors, Kidlington, Oxon.

News in brief

At the Annual General Meeting of the Mid-Norfolk Branch of the Norfolk and Norwich Spastics Association it was announced that the year's income had totalled £903. More than two-thirds of this had been sent to the NANSO Work Centre in Norwich.

Peter Blenkinsop, aged 12, and his parents are keen members of the Walton Comrades Football Club. Last month the Club's team of young boys presented Peter, a spastic, with a wheelchair. They had been collecting money for it with a series of football games and dart matches since January. So successful have they been with fund raising that they have now decided, after making £110, to collect for a second chair.

A dance held by the Teesside Spastics Society made a profit of £121.25 for group funds.

A ten-mile sponsored walk along the South coast beaches brought in £810 for the Bournemouth, Poole and District Spastics Society.

The management of the Samanthas Club, a new night-spot at Preston, Lancashire has donated the proceeds of the club's first two cabaret shows to Preston and District Spastics Society. The gift amounted to nearly £280.

A "Crazy Week" held at the Camborne School of Mines in Cornwall has raised £800 for the Society's Gladys Holman Residential Centre for adult spastics. This amounts to about £8 a student, which is believed to set a national record for rag week events.

People do stare . . .

Continued from Page 2

good source of inexpensive fabrics and, at times when there are few people about, open-air stalls are often more accessible to wheelchairs than shops with stairs and narrow passageways.

Even though most of the clothes shown in glossy magazines and the fashion pages of newspapers will be too "way out" or expensive for every-day wear, these pictures give a rough idea of coming trends and indicate how an existing wardrobe can be adapted to fit in with the prevailing fashions.

Shift-style mini-dresses can be cut shorter for use as tunics with trousers and other frocks made into pinafore styles with some adjustment at neck and armhole. An ancient shirt blouse can be brought up-to-date by wearing it under a short-sleeved sweater or tank-top (made perhaps by cutting away the worn part of long sleeves which have become holey at the elbow).

Anyone with enough storage space might find it a good idea to keep old clothes and accessories which are still good but dated in style. Even if they seem hopelessly outmoded now, there may be some way in which they can be adapted to fit in with some future fashion trend.

Long skirts can cover a multitude of sins for the disabled woman. Warm, feminine and up-to-the-minute, they are more comfortable than trousers for extended periods of sitting. Although they can impede the walking slightly for those with poor gait already, they are useful for disguising calipers and surgical boots.

It is easy to make a maxi-skirt from two and a half yards of 36" material halved, seamed down the selvages and drawn into a waistband with gathers or unpressed pleats. The waistband can be fastened with

Velcro and the side opening, hidden in the fullness, will not need a zip.

These skirts can be worn with a variety of blouses and sweaters. A loose smock-style top is comfortable and covers any unsightly bulges round the middle. Those who have the figure could try stretchy vest-tops in knitted cotton material. The latter would serve a double purpose as cosy undergarments on cooler days — the more colourful the better.

Women who for medical reasons have to wear specially built-up shoes, were delighted by the advent of platform soles. Others, uncertain on their feet, but able to wear conventional thin-soled styles, were not so happy. Anyone not requiring support for the feet would find rubber flip-flops an inexpensive form of slipper for summer or in houses with efficient central heating.

Some excellent publications are available on clothing for the disabled. These are backed by painstaking research and careful study of different types of handicap, but the styles shown tend to be somewhat dowdy. This is partly, perhaps, because of the ephemeral nature of fashion and partly because the books attempt to cover such a wide age-range.

The above very general survey is aimed without apology at the young and fashion-conscious. I believe those disabled from birth or early childhood need all the help they can get in retaining their identity, especially in the traumatic teenage years when the consciousness of handicap first strikes home and to be different from the group is a kind of hell on earth.

Anne Plummer



At an art exhibition held at The Society's Meldreth Manor School, near Royston, Hertfordshire, the works on show included a flower picture by Susan Baker, which won a special prize in the Art of the Invalid Child exhibition, reviewed below.

Pictured with examples of their work are Meldreth pupils, left to right, Andrew Free, Yvonne Hughts, Elaine Joyner (standing) and Susan Baker.

Picture by courtesy of R. H. Clarke and Royston Crow.

Society school children shine at art show

Entries from three of The Spastics Society's schools featured in this year's Art of the Invalid Child exhibition at the Royal Exchange, London, organised by the Invalid Children's Aid Association.

Meldreth Manor in Hertfordshire was represented by five paintings and two pieces of pottery; Ingfield Manor, Sussex, showed five pictures, and the Thomas Delarue School in Kent, seven.

Special prizes were won by Susan Barker, 14, of Meldreth, with an abstract work, Paul Houldin, 15, of Ingfield, who showed a colourful version of the Royal Wedding, and Sarah Minihane, 15, of Delarue, who works with a brush attached to her head.

Robbie's dad

One of the youngest contributors was four-year-old athetoid Robbie McDonald, who attends West Mead Special School in Berkshire. His lively painting called "My daddy and me" won Third Prize in the under-12 section for figures, animals and objects.

Although a few of the works, including those by Delarue students, showed outstanding imaginative qualities, more than half the entries were by ESN or autistic children and the overall standard seemed lower than that in previous years of the exhibition.

This made somewhat tedious viewing to the ordinary spectator with no professional interest in subnormality, but as Trevor Jeavons points out in his newly published book 'Art and Cerebral Palsy':

"It is a common misinterpretation that the artist's role is a

communicator of ideas and images to others... the basic function of his imaginative creativity is to communicate with himself..."

Obviously the children whose pictures were shown must have gained a tremendous psychological boost from seeing their work on public display in London.

How to teach

Trevor Jeavons, mentioned above, is deputy headmaster of Meldreth Manor School and he has produced a scholarly little book based on his experience of teaching art to cerebral palsied children. It is aimed primarily at those who may know a little about art or teaching but who are new to the special problems of the handicapped. It includes an excellent layman's guide to the medical aspects of cerebral palsy.

He says that the inability to copy accurately from a drawing or three-dimensional model may not necessarily be due to poor motor control, but to problems of spatial perception, and that learning art can help children to overcome these problems.

Many athetoids have to hold the brush in mouth or toes, or attached to a headband. They, like the more lightly disabled with some clumsiness in the hands, find it difficult to achieve fine detail in their painting. (In the writer's experience, for instance, the windows of distant buildings come out as fuzzy grey blobs rather than neat oblongs). However, Mr. Jeavons feels that this gives such work a vigorous Impressionist quality.

"If the images were much clearer, some qualities, particularly the suggestion of atmosphere, would be lost," he writes.

The book ends with "case histories" of three intelligent young spastics with varying degrees of handicap. Each has a different approach to art, yet all find it a satisfying medium of self-expression.

A.P.

International praise for spastic film maker

A former pupil at The Spastics Society's Craig-y-Parc and Thomas Delarue Schools, Kevin Holmes, aged 19, won unanimous praise from a panel of international judges with his film "Beltane" when it was shown at the International Film Festival in Brussels.

Now a student at the National Star Centre for Disabled Youth in Cheltenham, Kevin, from North Harrow, Middlesex, also won acclaim for another film "Fresh Images," the National Stars' International film-in-education project.

"Beltane" is a sequence of images, fire, bronze heads spinning out of darkness, fiery patterns and Eskimo carvings alternating with increasing rapidity to create the mood of an ancient pagan rite.

Kevin uses a Kodak Instamatic Super 8 movie camera, and is starting to compose his own music for films. Tutors at St. Paul's College of Education in Cheltenham are so impressed by his work that they are giving him more advanced technical training.



Film star meets film maker. Here Peter Sellers on the film set of his recent film "The Optimist of Nine Elms" talks to Kevin Holmes. In the centre is Victor Lyndon, the producer.

Picture by courtesy of Bob Penn, Cheetah Productions.

New prospect for disabled students

Prospect Hall, on the campus of the Selly Oak Colleges in Birmingham, is still being built, but in January it is hoped it will open its doors to its first students. It has been specially designed to take not only able-bodied but disabled mature students as well.

It is Prospect Hall's proud boast that it is the first college to bring together both able-bodied and disabled adults from all over the country and overseas.

To start off with, the residential college will provide short courses lasting 10 days on a very wide variety of subjects from music, art and drama, to photography and horticulture.

It is expected that 42 students, mainly disabled, will enrol in January, and Prospect Hall's spokesman explained: "These aren't diploma courses. They are designed to give people an interest and incentive to work on their own."

The total cost of the project, started in 1970, is £500,000, and £100,000 is still needed before work can be completed.

enthusiastic amateurs — who just happened to be physically handicapped. Kevin's speech difficulties seem to diminish when he genuinely wants to communicate, and audiences obviously have no difficulty in following what he says... they laugh at his jokes!

"He's presented his work to teachers, students and social workers in London, Oxford, Wallingford, Leicester and Cheltenham. Audiences tend to agree that he is the best advertisement for the value of film making for physically handicapped young people."

Stuart describes Kevin as "a very dynamic individual who communicates his excitement to others," and added: "He's obviously going to go far."

As yet, Kevin has no specific plans for when he leaves college, but he intends to make a career in film making.

Swimming for equipment

A sponsored swim held at West Bridgeford, Nottinghamshire, raised £270, to equip a local team taking part in the Spastics Games for the first time this year.

Team members will come from the West Bridgeford Day Centre for the Physically Handicapped, and Wilford View, the adjoining residential centre.

Those taking part in the sponsored swim included four spastic residents from the hostel, students of West Bridgeford College of Education, local comprehensive school pupils and staff from the Social Services Department.

Lectures

Stuart Olesker, drama and visual arts tutor at the National Star Centre, said: "Kevin has lectured on the value of film in special education all over England and even abroad. He went over to Paris in December and convinced a number of blasé Parisian ciné enthusiasts that the creative and technical achievements of professionals could be equalled by

Star names for Possum concert

The Possum Users' Association has a glittering line-up of names for its second charity concert. Sir Adrian Boult will conduct the London Philharmonic Orchestra, and the soloist for Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto will be John Ogdon, winner of the Tchaikovsky prize in Moscow 1962.

The Duke of Edinburgh has again agreed to be the concert's patron, as he was for the first P.U.A. concert two years ago.

The concert is being staged at the Royal Albert Hall on October 19 with a programme starting with Beethoven's Egmont Overture, followed by the First Piano Concerto and ending with Dvorak's Ninth Symphony "From the New World."

Robert Bowell, Chairman of P.U.A., said: "This last work seems very suitable for our concert, as Possum electronic equipment has opened new worlds to our disabled members."

Special arrangements are being made for people in wheelchairs, and coaches will be arranged from several parts of the country.

Priority bookings begin in July through to August 31, when bookings will be open to the general public.

Ticket order forms are available from Robert at "Copper Beech," Parry's Close, Stoke Bishop, Bristol BS9 1AW, and people are asked to send stamped addressed envelopes.

Incontinence with confidence



INCO PRODUCTS give all incontinent patients both young and old the confidence required to lead as normal a life as possible.

INCO GARMENTS — this washable garment is suitable for all ages of both sexes, being available in seven sizes (24" — 58" hips) Two new larger sizes are now available. New waist tapes have been added for greater comfort and convenience when changing the liner. Inco Garments are available from chemists and free from most Local Health Authorities.

INCO ROLL — an absorbent disposable liner in roll form which can be cut to any required length.

INCO UNDERPADS highly absorbent protective pads with a new soft facing. Available in two sizes 16½" x 24" and 30" x 24" through most local Authorities. The 16½" x 24" underpad can also be bought from chemists in packets of ten.

Robinsons OF CHESTERFIELD



NOW 2 LARGER SIZES WITH WAIST TAPES

Prizes for children Tell us about your holiday

THERE are generous cash prizes to be won by children in today's competition which launches our Children's Corner in Spastics News. Any child is eligible to enter, and we hope you will get out your pens, your crayons or your paints, and send us a bumper number of entries.

All you have to do is to tell us about your holiday. You can write about it—a maximum of 200 words, please—or send us a picture illustrating the fine time you had on your holiday from school, whether you went abroad, to the seaside, the country, or simply stayed at home.

Your entries

We are giving you ample time to complete your entries; the closing date is Friday, August 16. The results will be announced in the September issue of Spastics News.

Now to the prizes. There will

be £10 worth of Premium Bonds to the first prizewinner in each age group, the up to 10-year-olds and the 10 to 15 age group. In addition, there will be £5 worth of Premium Bonds to the runner-up in each class.

The details: Send your entries which, of course, must be your own, unaided work, to: "My Holiday" Contest, The Editor, Spastics News, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ, to arrive by first post on or before August 16. Don't forget to attach your name and address, and your date of birth, clearly written in block capitals. If you want your entries returned, please send a stamped, addressed envelope. Then the judges will get to work, and the best entries will be published in the newspaper. The Editor's decision in all matters relating to the contest is final.

Now it is up to you — get busy with your entries and think how nice it would be to win those Premium Bonds.



I just thought I'd pop in to say hello and to show you my splendid Bounty Box which members of my Boppo Club are helping to fill.

The Club now has a membership of nearly 12,000 girls and boys from all over the country, and they are helping to raise money so that we can buy special Boppo buses for handicapped children. All the

money, trading stamps and gifts that they send me are put into the Bounty Box and, as soon as it is full, we should be able to buy our first bus.

If you want to know more about the Club, do write to me at Westmorland House, 104 Stokes Croft, Bristol BS99 7QX (please enclose a stamped addressed envelope for reply).

Charities pool their know-how on film making

Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, acted as chairman of a charity film seminar held in June at the National Film Theatre in London. Representatives of nearly 40 charities were welcomed to the seminar by Baroness Masham, who campaigns in the House of Lords on behalf of the disabled. Those who gave talks or showed films included the Yorkshire Association for the Disabled, the National Children's Homes, National Playing Fields Association, and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Dr. Barnardo's and the Royal British Legion both presented films which showed how their image has changed to meet the needs of the modern world. For the former charity the emphasis is nowadays more on the provision of day-care facilities for the children of single or disabled parents than on the old-style orphanage.

The Legion presented a moving film which showed that this charity is just as concerned with the soldier wounded in Belfast last month as with the

veterans of the First and Second World Wars.

Mr. Loring spoke about the way in which The Spastics Society uses film as a vital publicity medium. He said that he takes a great personal interest in the making of the Society's films and, as the aim is to get them shown on television, they must be of the highest possible standard.

"Let the producer loose," he told the audience, "but be quite certain he is going to make in broad terms the film you want to make."

He pointed out that public relations in the charity field was a matter of identifying and understanding the level at which one is trying to communicate. For instance, a message to family doctors may be different from that sent to lecturers in medical schools. A film should be as acceptable to as many levels as possible, but the message becomes distorted if one tries to reach too many different levels at a time.

"Always tell the truth," he said, "for the public is slow to forgive untruths."

Mr. Loring went on to say that he was a firm believer in what was called "the mix"—the use of all the media such as the press, broadcasting, films, advertising, etc. He tried to project a single theme using as many of the media as possible, and aimed at as many social levels as were practicable. However, themes had a limited life and it was important not to persist in a theme in which the public were no longer interested.

Documentaries

Documentary film could be one of the most valuable media in presenting a theme, but it was an expensive toy and, unless the film were televised, the money spent could be a total loss. For a film to be shown on television it must be technically of a high standard. A direct fund-raising appeal would not be accepted, nor would a documentary too narrow in its message. Large sums of money had been wasted on charity films which were self-congratulatory and did not speak to people outside the organisation.

Mr. Loring then spoke of the place of the documentary in the cinema today. Much poor, irrelevant matter was shown, he felt, in the form of advertising or truncated programmes which presented two full-length films abridged to the point of incomprehensibility.

"Why does the public accept this?" he demanded.

It was thought that the British public went to the cinema to be entertained and did not want serious matter on the screen. But a good documentary would distract attention from the intensity of some main features.

Concluded Mr. Loring: "The documentary film is a truly wonderful art form and it is a shame that it rarely reaches the public except occasionally on television."

A newspaper crusades—but what do the readers really think?

THE Press has always championed the cause of the underdog, and there was a lot of reforming zeal in the series of articles in the *East Anglian Daily Times* in June spotlighting the conditions at some hospitals for the mentally handicapped in their area.

Reporters described hospitals where there was serious under-staffing, overcrowding, a shortage of facilities and, at one hospital, the fears of the staff about the risk of fire.

A reporter was told by a nurse that it took 25 minutes to evacuate one ground floor ward in a fire practice, and she was naturally concerned as to what would happen in a real blaze, as parts of the hospital are five stories high and there are no lifts. Many of the patients are physically as well as mentally handicapped.

Editor's Diary

The reporter confessed himself "shocked" at a hospital where crammed wards had beds only inches apart and only enough chairs to seat half the patients. In a children's ward, he said, "conditions bordered on the horrifying," with only two nurses in charge of 18 children, who spent the day sitting in prams or wheelchairs. The nurses complained that they had asked for mattresses for the children to sit on so they could exercise their limbs, but had been told no money was available.

The lists of defects seemed endless: physically handicapped patients dragging wheelchairs down steps because there were no ramps; a lack of lifting aids to help them into baths; a kitchen unpainted for 15 years, "and some corridors look as if

they have not been painted for 50 years." Parts of the hospital "must rank as slum-like," declared the writer.

The reporters did their job well, but when a local health authority team went on an inspection tour it criticised local papers for "over-reacting," but did not dispute that nurses were working under great strain because of under-staffing and cramped conditions. And the team said it would press the Government for immediate financial aid.

Nurses at the hospital had claimed that many of the sub-normal patients were fit to leave and live in the community, if only there was somewhere for them to go. (The Spastics Society, you will remember, has pressed for more hostel-type accommodation for the mentally handicapped.)

A reader of the *East Anglian Daily Times*, and an ex-nurse, was quick to react to the suggestion that the patients could live outside hospital. "I would query greatly if they are in fact 'fit,' many cannot read or write or count. They have been spoiled (I know, I have helped in this), put to bed and seen by a doctor for every headache, abrasion, temperature, etc. They have lived communally for many years, and now we wish to transplant them, usually singly, into new environments... they won't survive away from their life-long companions."

The writer warned of the burden to the local ratepayers "to have all these patients thrust on their rates, let alone the amount of building needed."

There speaks the voice of sweet charity.



Barry John and Susie are special

REMEMBER our Charitcats? In the May issue we told you about Barry John and Susie, his sister, the homeless kittens given a cushy billet by the Society in the basement of our London headquarters. They came to us from the RSPCA, who were looking for a good home for the kittens, then five weeks old, but wanted them to be together because Barry John and Susie were inseparable.

So the kittens took up residence and rapidly became the most popular members of the Society's "staff." They still are.

In May we used a picture of the brother and sister cats, and there, plain to see, was that Barry John was a tabby and Susie a tortoiseshell. End of story, we thought, but soon afterwards came a request from a research laboratory working in the immense field of genetics for photographs of our charitcats. It wasn't pussy pin-ups the eminent specialists were after; Barry John and Susie had innocently wandered into the higher planes of science.

It seems that it is very unusual indeed for a tabby and tortoiseshell to be born into

the same litter, and the researchers found the evidence interesting. We cherish the thought of the scientists peering at the pictures of the rare pair.

In praise of Peter

A VERY nice letter arrived from the residents of the Society's Coombe Farm Centre for adult spastics at Croydon, Surrey. It was in appreciation of their warden, Peter Lee, who left to join the Princess Marina Centre at Seer Green, Bucks., early in June.

Said Katharyn Foster Holt on behalf of her fellow residents at Coombe Farm: "Mr. Lee has created a family atmosphere within the centre which has been enjoyed by us all. We are sorry to see him go, but we wish him well and hope he is received at his new post with the warmth he deserves. We know he will do as much for them as he has done for us, and many more people will feel the comfort of his help and guidance."

The Spastics Society goes to endless trouble to find the ideal people as wardens for its centres (and in fact any staff who are working closely with spastics) but it was cheering to hear from the residents themselves how much they had appreciated the efforts of Peter Lee at Coombe Farm. In the tortured jargon of marketing here is a "consumer reaction" of the highest order.

TALKING of jargon, which we hate to even recognise, but feel we must, Spastics News is convinced that English is being overtaken by a new language which might be called "trans-Atlantic-social-service-speak." It raises its ugly head in the conversation of many people who are connected with social work, education and psychology. I can't bear to give you examples of the hideous jargon because it makes me feel rather queasy, but if you wish to hear it in full hideous flood then tune in

to any radio programme probing problems of the day, or attend any conference where highly motivated experts are gathered for meaningful analysis of integrated relationships or some such rubbish.

One example I can't resist, and may the chap guilty of it do penance for ever more. This fellow, an educational psychologist by profession, said of a child of my acquaintance: "She appears to be well motivated in the classroom situation."

"Do you mean she likes school?" I replied somewhat tartly.

"I suppose I do," he blushed.

A rose by any other name...

DO you know where you are living any more? It seems to me that the recent reorganisation of local authority boundaries was a plot to confuse us all and, apart from not knowing who to pay the rates to, I can see that the chopping and changing of councils and their new names has caused quite a problem for some of the Society's local voluntary groups.

Mike Venables, the senior regional officer in the Midlands, brings out a chatty news-letter for the groups in his area, and in the latest issue he asks them to consider if they have the correct name to identify them with the district in which they are working. He gives some examples: the local authority area covered by the Retford and Worksop Spastics Society is in fact now named the Bassetlaw District Council; the West Bromwich group is now in Sandwell and Walsall; and the Spalding group is now in the South Holland District Council area. Confusing, isn't it?

Obviously there will have to be a spate of name-changing, and it's just one more problem for group workers. We're sorry for them because here at Spastics News we make no secret of our admiration for the volunteers who work away in their areas so hard and so long to help their handicapped neighbours.

May the sun shine on them this summer.



Splashes from the Spastics Pool

Top Ten's Gala Week a great success

For the 2,000 guests at Pontin's Holiday Centre, Blackpool, it was a week to remember. A full Pontin's entertainment programme, visits to three centres for spastics, and two company presentations by Top Ten Promotions all contributed to a full and enjoyable holiday.

Guests included almost 700 collectors who had qualified by increasing their membership by a minimum of 50 new members in an incentive scheme which commenced in September 1973.

This was the fourth Gala Week in three years organised by Top Ten for its longest serving collectors or as a reward for increases in membership.

Linda Berwick, The Spastics Society's Achievement of the Year Award winner with the Mayor of Blackpool Councillor W. Robinson in the Mayor's Parlour. Linda received an invitation from the Mayor to a reception during her stay at Pontins Holiday Centre as a guest of Top Ten Promotions.

It was the Mayor's first reception after his inauguration and in his short address he paid tribute to Linda's achievements.

Linda was accompanied by her mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Long, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Fry and Miss Christine Shingleton.

Linda's signature was the first in the visitors' book.

PICTURE BELOW:

Comedian Harry Worth took time off from his new television show to present a Vauxhall Viva to Spastics Pool supporter William Parratt. Although he hasn't driven since the 1940's, Mr. Parratt, of Hemel Hempstead, is determined to take lessons.



A.G.M. for Wales

THE Wales Region of The Spastics Society held its first ever conference and annual general meeting in June and brought together 57 delegates from local societies and social service departments all over the Principality.

Roger Jefcoate, a consultant in electronic aids for the handicapped, illustrated his work with slides and a talk at a pre-conference get-together. At the A.G.M., Trevor Rees was elected chairman of the Wales Regional Co-ordinating Committee, and Mrs. Betty Powell-Bowen and Mr. G. O. Williams were elected vice-chairmen for North and South Wales respectively. Peter May was elected treasurer.

The A.G.M. heard a round-up of all the groups' past-year activities, and in particular the practical difficulties of launching a survey to assess the needs of spastics in Wales for the next five to 10 years.

The speakers at the conference were Mr. Derek Lancaster-Gaye, the Society's Director of Resources; Mr. Tony Frank, the Society's Assistant Director Regions; Mr. John James, Training Officer of the Council of Social Service for Wales, and Mr. Lewis Carter-Jones, M.P.

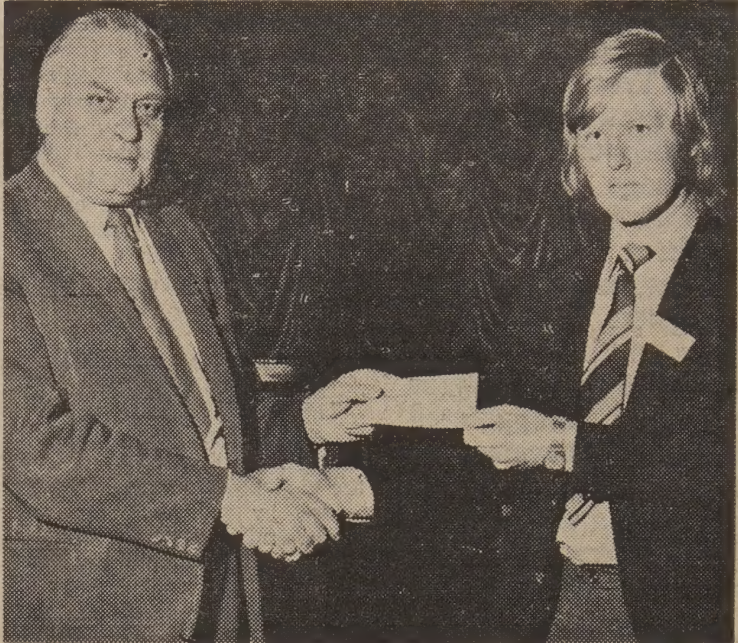
Mr. Carter-Jones is Chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party's Disablement Group. Speaking of how technology could aid the handicapped, he made the point: "If it is possible for an able-bodied person to function in an abnormal environment, as we have already seen demonstrated in space travel, then it must be possible to enable disabled people to operate in a normal environment." He said that ideally the situation would be to prevent disease and accidents, but if disability could not be prevented or cured then the aim should be to relieve and alleviate suffering. He stressed that there was no disability which could not be relieved in some way by technology.

Mr. Carter-Jones also pressed for earlier assessment programmes so that the 20,000 disabled children leaving school each year would have a better chance of leading a normal life. He also pointed out that where access to public places was concerned, what was good for the person in a wheelchair was also good for the pram-pushing mother and the elderly.

Mr. Carter-Jones then presented volumes of poetry to the three winners from Wales in the Society's 1974 literary contest: Linda Stevens, aged 16, of the Society's Craig-y-Parc School; Rosalind Osborne, Secretary of the Colwyn Bay and District Group; and double prize-winner Owen Davies of Swansea.



One of the highlights of the week for the children and for that matter their parents, the Donkey Derby.



PICTURE LEFT:

Geoffrey Arter, director of Top Ten Promotions (right) presenting Mr. F. W. Bellman, Warden of Daresbury Hall the Society's Residential Centre with a cheque for £500 on behalf of the Good Neighbours Trust.

The presentation took place in the Reception Hall at Daresbury. Similar donations were made to John Nelson, Headmaster of Irton Hall and John Parkinson, General Manager of Lancaster Training Centre in recognition of the hospitality extended to the coach parties that visited all three centres on four days of the Gala Week.

Bonanza day — and Boppo too

Boppo the Bear was an overwhelming success with the children at the Manor House Children's Home, Frenchay, Bristol, when he opened their recent Bonanza.

The event, held in the Manor House gardens, was a joint effort to raise money by the Home for their hostel, and Bristol Lions to finance children's holidays. £600 was raised, which will be divided equally between the two parties.

Big debt

Miss Ida Tidder, Manor House co-principal, said their portion of money would go towards paying off the £25,000 debt still remaining on the hostel.

Among the day's visitors were Mr. Roy Laver, Director of Top Ten Promotions; Mrs. Billie Roberts from the Collectors' Club, Top Ten; and Bristol Lions President, Mr. George Linington.



PICTURE ABOVE:

Manchester City and Scottish footballer Dennis Law hands over the keys of a new Vauxhall Viva car to Mr. D. Williams of Cherry Tree Walk, Stretford.

Mr. Williams won his car in a recent charm girl competition for supporters of the Spastics Pool. Also featured are Mr. D. Evans, left, area supervisor, and Mr. F. Petts, the manager of Grahams, the Vauxhall main dealer in Stretford.

Picture by courtesy of Stretford and Urmston Journal

PICTURE LEFT:

All smiles as Mr. Mike Smith of Tipton receives his first dividend cheque of £1,598.55 from Worcestershire cricketer Norman Gifford.

The presentation took place at the Bilston Civil Defence Club and our picture also shows Gordon Barker, left, area supervisor ST72, and Mr. Frank Gandy, right, the local collector.

Isle of Man meets 12,000 membership target

The 12,000th member on the island was Mrs. P. Spong of Greeba Drive, Onchan, who received a bouquet from Peter Kneale of Manx Radio, to commemorate this milestone. In addition to an interview on Manx Radio, the item was also featured in the main news.

There are at present over 20 official Spastics Pool collectors on the island, but it was Mrs. Jenny Cirkhill of 14 Third Avenue, Onchan, who enrolled the all important member.

A final word from area representative Laurie Watterson: "Let us now aim for 13,000 members."

New worker for spastics in Scotland



First public engagement for Mrs. Ann Warland, of Deanburn Park, Linlithgow, who has just been appointed Organising Secretary of the Scottish Spastics Appeal Fund, was the Scottish Area Spastics Games held at Dunfermline College of Physical Education, Cramond, on June 15.

Mrs. Warland, a native of Oxford, has had considerable organising experience and for the past four years has been zone sales manager for a cosmetics company. She and her husband have two children.

The Games were the first of their kind to be held in Scotland, and attracted 60 spastic competitors from all parts of the country; previously, entrants had to travel to games in the North of England. Winners will be taking part in The Spastics Society's national games at Reading in July.

Name change for Lancashire group

The Crosby, Bootle, Litherland and District Spastics Society in Lancashire has changed its name to the South Sefton Spastics Society.

This flourishing group first started life 20 years ago as the Crosby and District Spastics Society. It works in close co-operation with the Social Services Department, which now uses the group's headquarters as a day care unit.

Future plans, announced at the group's annual general meeting last month, include the provision of special equipment for flats for spastics and other disabled people.

A fair held by the Torbay Appeals Committee of Devon and Exeter Spastics Society raised £500. The money will go into a fund for a swimming pool at the spastics centre in Exeter.

Some good news from Northern Ireland

Despite the troubles in Northern Ireland, Mr. Gerry McCann of Belfast has managed to find enough peace and quiet to study for a degree with the Open University.

Mr. McCann, aged 45 and a wheelchair-bound spastic, gained his B.A. earlier this year and is now going on to study for an Honours Degree in History and Philosophy.

He was unable to attend school because of his disability and did not learn to read until he was 12. His first job was keeping accounts for a commercial organisation. Then he left to start his own confectionery business, and married the girl who replied to his advertisement for an assistant. He now works for the Department of Agriculture at Stormont.

Mr. McCann and his wife Mary have adopted a little coloured girl, Mandy, now eight years old, and have fostered three other children. The two fostered boys, now 12 and 13, are at present in a children's home, but return to stay with the McCanns at weekends.

Even the bedridden become tourists by Jumbulance

IT sounds like a question on one of those general knowledge quiz games — If the U.S. Presidential car is the most expensive vehicle on the road, what is the second most expensive? The answer is the Jumbulance, built specially for the ACROSS Trust at a cost of £50,000 so that the severely handicapped can travel abroad in comfort.

The Trust, started in 1970, grew out of the Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust, which had then been operating for about 20 years, taking parties of disabled youngsters to Lourdes. Many of these children went back year after year and were disappointed when they became too old to join the H.C.P.T. party. So a separate pilgrimage was arranged for these young adults.

At first, like the children's group, they flew annually from Gatwick to Tarbes Airport by charter plane. Once in Lourdes, they stayed at a convent three miles outside the town and the initial problems about transporting disabled people between the convent and the Grotto were solved on one occasion by the loan from The Spastics Society of a transit van with hydraulic lift.

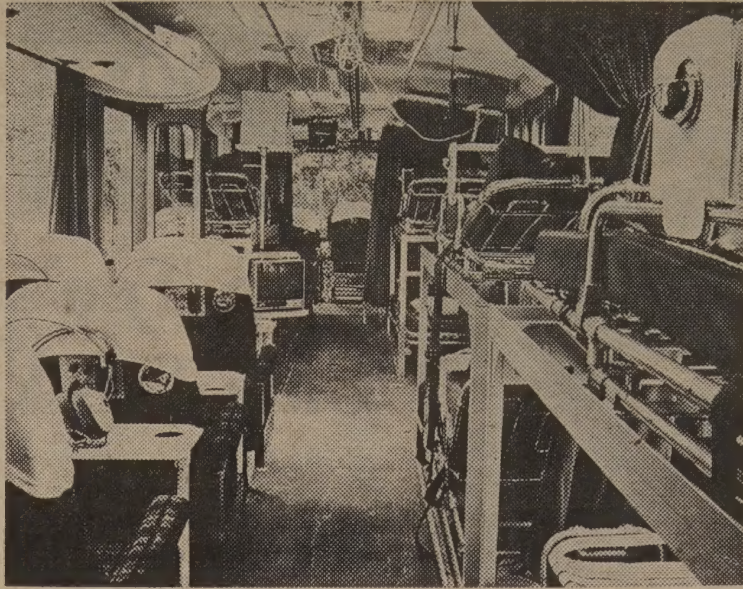
The van had to be taken across the Channel by car ferry, driven down through France

and brought back to England afterwards. The small party of voluntary workers who did this enjoyed the trip so much that it seemed a pity nobody had thought of taking some of the disabled people by road, particularly as the van was specially designed to carry wheelchairs.

Mobile ward

This led to the idea of a massive ambulance — a mobile hospital ward; in fact—for if the chairbound could be transported by road, why not the bedridden? These were the people who most needed the solace of Lourdes, but many of them were too ill to fly and since British Rail had discontinued its special hospital boat-train service there was no other better way of getting them to South-West France. And so ACROSS designed and built the Jumbulance, financed by an interest-free loan. About two-thirds of this loan has been paid off, thanks to generous donations and the collection of Green Shield stamps, but £17,000 is still owing. The Trust, incidentally, is very much a voluntary organisation with only three paid staff—two drivers and a secretary.

The Jumbulance has room for



The interior of the Jumbulance—complete with special seating and sleeping arrangements—even a TV set.

ten beds, with ten seats for helpers. It has large panoramic windows so that even recumbent passengers can enjoy the view while travelling. There is also air-conditioning, a refrigerator, and other modern facilities for serving food. (Main meals are usually picked up ready-prepared from hospitals and convents en route). There is also a loo on board and a hydraulic hoist for transporting non-ambulant passengers up and down the length of the coach.

On the ship

Sea-link car ferries have granted special permission for the Jumbulance passengers to remain in the vehicle during the Channel crossing, a practice which is not normally allowed. The firm has also adapted its boats on the Dover-Calais and Folkestone-Boulogne run so that the vehicle's air-conditioning system can be plugged into the ship's electricity supply.

The Jumbulance ran its maiden voyage to Lourdes in June 1973, and has made the journey more or less weekly ever since during the pilgrimage season. It has carried all types of sick and handicapped people, including several residents from The Spastics Society's Princess Marina Centre.

In October 1973, a party of severely disabled people travelled to Rome, where they were granted a private audience with the Pope. Their route took them through Belgium, Germany, Austria and over the Alps into Italy. A first view of the magnificent Alpine scenery is exciting for any traveller, but for a severely disabled person who spends most of the time cooped

up in one room, the experience must be almost unbelievable.

One of the helpers on the Rome trip was Hugh Wooldridge, honorary Public Relations man to the ACROSS Trust and, at the time of writing, Stage Manager for the West End play "Knuckle" at the Comedy Theatre. His mother is the well-known actress Margaretta Scott, and his sister, Susan Wooldridge, who played the Emperor's second wife in the recent ITV series "Napoleon and Love."

Margaretta Scott has been a member of the Stars Organisation for Spastics for many years and Hugh says that he has often sold programmes at the annual Grosvenor House Ball and the Wembley Pop Concerts in aid of the S.O.S. As a schoolboy at Stonyhurst College he used to go to Lourdes as a helper with the Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust, and through this work became involved with the ACROSS group from its earliest days.

Emergency

He showed great resourcefulness when Michael Green, one of the disabled travellers, became seriously ill on the return journey from Rome and had to be rushed into a Lausanne hospital for an emergency operation. Hugh stayed behind with him while the Jumbulance continued its journey home, and took the opportunity to do some public relations work for ACROSS.

He found the church of the local English-speaking Catholic community and told its members about the Jumbulance and

the misfortune which had brought him there. His story met with an immediate response. A Canadian schoolmaster took him into his home, while other members of the community arranged to pay the sick man's hospital bills and visited him daily during the two weeks before the Jumbulance returned to collect Hugh and Michael, making a 500-mile detour from the Lourdes route.

The new friends in Lausanne publicised the work of ACROSS in the local press and radio, raised £90 for the patient, and offered to accommodate a group of handicapped people from England for a week in 1974. They have also formed a Swiss action committee to help the work of ACROSS, with the possibility of building their own Jumbulance.

"Wherever we look for help we find it," said Hugh.

He added that many British doctors and nurses give up their precious holiday time to travel as helpers on the Jumbulance, paying their own fares into the bargain. The sick and handicapped travellers are also expected to pay for themselves, although ACROSS has occasionally helped in cases of real hardship.

No refusals

"We've never refused anybody yet," Hugh told me, "and it's completely inter-denominational. You don't have to be a Catholic to go on the Jumbulance."

Some non-Catholics might not find it easy to fit into the pattern of daily Mass and sight-seeing with a devotional rather than cultural bias, but there is no doubt that many disabled people derive great spiritual comfort from making the pilgrimage to Lourdes and often gain new strength to cope with their problems.

For the most severely disabled the Jumbulance provides a unique opportunity of seeing the world. These are the people whose lives are often spent lying flat between the same four walls. They need a change of scenery more than any of us, but in the past it has always been difficult to provide this because so few holiday homes are suitably equipped.

ACROSS is really making an effort to help these most heavily handicapped members of society and the venture has proved so successful that a second Jumbulance is already being built. Members envisage that perhaps one day there will be a whole fleet of these vehicles on the road.

Plans are being discussed for possible exchange visits between disabled people in England and their counterparts in Poland. This is a project being organised by the Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges, which has already arranged a number of exchange visits between student groups in Britain and Poland.



Willing arms lift a disabled traveller into the Jumbulance for the journey across Europe.

You too could have power

Handicapped people should become councillors and members of Parliament, said Jack Jones, General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, when he addressed a conference on "Employment, Training and Occupational Opportunities for Handicapped Teenagers."

This way the handicapped could educate members of the public in the problems of handicap. He also urged disabled people to join trade unions.

The conference, organised by the Friendship Group of Charities, was also addressed by Mr. Michael Lambert of the Confederation of British Industries; Esther Simpson of the Department of Education and Science; Timothy Reason, M.P., and Mr. McAllister, Principal of Hereward College for the Physically Handicapped.

Credit to the bank girls

Greatly to their credit, a team of women from the Rotherham and Doncaster branches of the Midland Bank took time off from totting up figures in the ledgers and showed off their own in football strip. They took on a team of men from the bank's Doncaster branch and at the end of the game the account was balanced with a 3-3 score. The net result was £38.50 to be credited to the

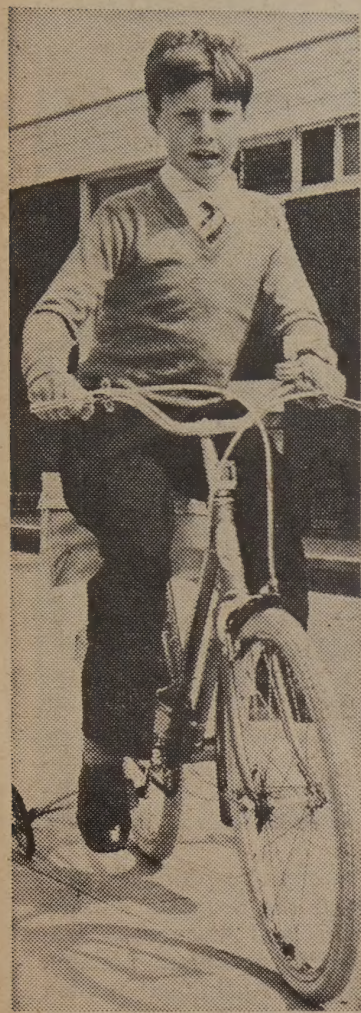
Doncaster and District Spastics Society, proving that the ladies were fund-raisers the Society can bank on.

Our picture shows them getting ready for the kick-off.

Picture by courtesy of the Doncaster Evening Post



Winning on equal terms



Ivan Bourner, 12, of Worthing, Sussex, has passed the National Cycling Proficiency Test. Ivan, who has a spastic disability in one leg, could manage only a trike up to the end of last year, but no allowances were made for him in the proficiency test, which he took in competition with able-bodied children.

Picture by courtesy of Brighton Evening Argus

A sponsored walk held in aid of Stamford and District Spastics Society is expected to have raised £750. The walk was started by the group's beauty queen, Karen Flynn.

* * *

The St. Austell committee of the Cornish Spastics Society has collected £725 in three months. This will go towards a £1,600 ambulance needed for transporting the 57 spastics in the area.

IN THE WAKE OF INFLATION AND VAT:

"Deserving" charities must have special aid by Government

Sweeping reforms to cushion major charities from the devastating effects of inflation and crippling taxes have been called for by the Director of The Spastics Society, Mr. James Loring.

In a six point plan, delivered in an address to the All-Party Disablement Group at the House of Commons, Mr. Loring urged that:

- The most deserving charities should be easily identifiable, so that they can be singled out for special financial treatment by the Government.

- Charities providing services should be treated as if they were local authorities, and gain exemption from VAT.

- Action should be taken to minimise the effects of VAT.

- Tax relief should be allowed on gifts to charities and total charitable bequests.

He told the group that running costs in The Spastics Society were likely to increase a staggering 42 per cent, in the current year. A total of nearly half a million pounds.

Unless something was done urgently, next year would almost certainly see the closing of some schools and centres.

Mr. Loring said that the total number of registered charities would soon exceed 100,000. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had said in his Budget speech that the charity laws were being abused. "I

know nothing of this, but can well imagine that in such a large number of organisations there is abuse and some dubiety."

He pointed out that most charities did not collect money from the general public. As many as 23 per cent had an annual income of less than £5 a year. And 94 per cent had incomes of less than £5,000 a year. Only three per cent raised more than £10,000.

"One of the objections to further fiscal reforms in favour of charities is that charities are a very mixed bag," said Mr. Loring, "and 'why should they all' it is asked, 'benefit from exceptional treatment?'"

Question

He proposed that the register of charities should be split into sections, so that the Treasury and other departments could readily identify those to be singled out for specific treatment. "For example, should public schools continue to benefit from charitable status?" he asked. "Should animal charities continue to benefit? The list of questions is long."

Mr. Loring suggested that charities which provide services which are the responsibility of the state or local authority should be treated financially as if they were in fact, local authorities. This would relieve that part of their activities from the burden of VAT.

"A very strange situation exists at the moment whereby a voluntary school for the handicapped, recognised by the Government, pays VAT whereas a school providing exactly the same services, but run by a local authority, does not pay VAT."

VAT losses

Turning more specifically to VAT, Mr. Loring said that the National Council of Society Service had sponsored a detailed study by a firm of chartered accountants on the likely effects of the tax on charities. The estimated loss to the 52 charities taken as a sample, amounted to £300,000 in a year.

Mr. Loring called for tax relief for individual charitable donors. At the moment the only way people could gain tax relief on gifts to charity was by making a deed of covenant. This

was a complicated and cumbersome process which put many people off. A way round this would be to allow tax relief on donations to certain charities of up to, say, five per cent of a person's earnings.

He asked for unlimited exemption of estate duty on bequests to charity, and not just on the first £50,000, as is now the case. And for tax relief on donations to charity by limited companies. At the moment they could only claim relief for donations to charities connected to their own particular trade, unless there was a deed of covenant.

"Savage"

"The recent cut back in public spending of £1,200 million was very savage indeed," Mr. Loring stressed. "Financial starvation is a prescription for disaster, and disasters like South Ockenden will occur again and again until society is prepared to spend enough on one of its largest and most deprived minorities — the handicapped and chronically sick."

"Even if the cut back is reversed it will be very difficult to get many of the lost projects started again, and there will be heavy pressure on social service charities, such as The Spastics Society, to provide services for those who are not being provided for by local authorities."

"Everything therefore should be done to help us bridge the gap."

He said the plan to reduce the numbers of mentally handicapped in hospitals by financing programmes of community care was a dead letter because of the cut back. Lack of money was constantly offered as an excuse by local authorities for their failure to implement the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act.

Burden

Both factors would increase the burden on voluntary bodies, already collapsing under the weight of mounting inflation.

"The general effect of the last Budget has been disastrous for many of us," he added. "It could well cost The Spastics Society £100,000."

Much of the increase had been brought about by the swingeing increase of seven per cent on pool betting duty, since much of the Society's income was derived from a football pool.

Finally, Mr. Loring referred to investment portfolios. "The market value of our investment portfolio has been reduced during recent months by no less than £1 million," he said. "And this is a time when we shall have to draw upon our investments to finance current activities."

"I merely mention it so that you can understand the anxiety that I feel for the financial future of the work we do and, indeed, for the financial future of all other social service charities which are working in the same field."

Apprentices help White Lodge

Apprentices from the Royal Army Ordnance Corps College at Deepcut, Camberley, Surrey, have raised £725 for local spastics with a door-to-door collection. The money will help towards the annual running costs of White Lodge Spastics Centre, Chertsey. The centre needs a total of £34,000 a year to stay open.



Come and swim for Rusty

Rusty Wright's hopes of a successful sponsored swim were buoyant — until she discovered a shortage of available swimmers. Now she is begging anyone with a swimsuit to take part in the swim she has organised in aid of the Association of '62 Clubs, the clubs run by spastics for spastics.

"The swim is being held on July 20 at the University College of London's baths from 4 p.m. onwards. The Thames Valley police have volunteered to act as the necessary life-savers and now all we need are the swimmers!" said Rusty. "I've rounded up 25 friends to take part, but really I want at least 50 in the water."

Sponsorship forms can be obtained from Rusty at the Club's office, 16 Fitzroy Square, London W1.

An exhibition of equipment, aids and toys for handicapped children and adults, will be held at the Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, on 10th and 11th October, 1974. This will be a combined effort between the Hospital Paediatric Department, Education and Social Services Departments of the local authority, Area Health Authority, and certain voluntary societies. For further details please contact Mrs. B. R. Crowe, 19, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SS0 7PL.

Now the crowning success of happy marriage

Behind the happy wedding day smiles of Duncan Fraser and Marjory Glass pictured above there is a heart-warming story of bravery and determination. Both are spastics and both have succeeded.

They first met at school as pupils of the then-very-new Westerlea School for Spastics in Edinburgh, and Duncan's father was the secretary of the organisation which became known as the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics.

Now 35, Duncan went on to qualify as a lawyer. After a spell in Inverness as a legal assistant, he returned to Aberdeen University to take an MA Honours in Economics and is now engaged in investment research for a firm of stockbrokers. In her turn, Marjory became a first-class telephonist.

The triumph of both over their handicaps is an object lesson in the scope for spastics: Never give up! Now Duncan and Marjory can look forward to the richest prize of all—the warmth and companionship of a happy marriage.

Picture by courtesy of Islay Studios, Edinburgh.

American visitors see Society's work

A PARTY of 117 visitors from America visited a school and residential centre run by The Spastics Society during a week-long study tour in this country.

The tour, arranged by the International Cerebral Palsy Society, was for people concerned for the welfare of spastics in America. Visitors to Meldreth Manor School were able to see the pupils in action for the visit coincided with the school's sports day. The centre visited was Drummonds.

A one-day conference for representatives of the American Association of professional workers in United Cerebral Palsy was held at the Kennedy Lecture Theatre at the Institute of Child Health, University of London. Chaired by James

Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, they heard a variety of speakers. Mr. Kenneth Urwin, Director of Social Services for the London Borough of Camden, spoke about local authority services for the handicapped. Dr. George Kerr, Senior Medical Officer of the Department of Health and Social Security, spoke on services for the handicapped in this country, and Dr. Simon Haskell, lecturer at the Department of Child Development at London University's Institute of Education, talked about the importance of assessment.

Derek Lancaster-Gaye, the Society's Director of Resources, talked on the role of the voluntary body in providing education and residential accommodation, and the Society's Head of Social Work and Employment, Miss Margaret Morgan's topic was the role of the voluntary body in the delivery of personal services.

Cheque from teenagers

Teenagers from Brawdy Youth Club, Pembrokeshire, have raised £208.36 for Pembrokeshire Spastics Society. The money was handed over at a dance held at the R.A.F. Families Club, Haverfordwest.

Picture below of the cheque presentation shows (left to right) Squadron Leader Neville, Ron Morgan, Angela Batterson, Janice Le-Cun, Wyn Thomas, Mrs. Valerie Gau (Secretary of the Pembrokeshire Spastics Society), Mr. John Benthall (Group Chairman), Yvonne Berry, Mr. Jimmy Gillard, Linda Le-Cun, Mr. Viv Morgan, Flying Officer Mason, Mr. Chris Ellis, of Pentagon Disco and Mr. Dai Charles (second partner in the singing act "Dai and Viv" who entertained the guests).

Picture by courtesy of Western Telegraph.





Exhibition transport for the Mayor

The Mayor of Brighton is pictured taking a ride in the Society's Newton "E" electric wheelchair after opening the Royal Society of Health Exhibition and Congress in the town. He toured The Spastics Society's imaginative stand and, like the rest of the visitors, was very impressed with the wheelchair.

Each year at the exhibition the Society's stand has sought to highlight some of the many problems facing the physically handicapped and, in particular, the integration of disabled people in the community. It was not surprising therefore that the stand this year should be about the mobility of the disabled, the importance of mobility on their integration, and its relevance to easier community living.

The Society's concern for greater movement of the disabled in the community is reflected in the advances it has made in the manufacture of its own Newton wheelchairs, and a wide range was on display at the exhibition. The latest model "E" electric wheelchair is a sophisticated advancement on its forerunner launched at the 1972 exhibition.

The Society is confident that the revolutionary model "E" electric will be seen as the solution to greater mobility for the handicapped in the community.

Open University probes problems of handicapped

The Open University is launching a new Post Experience course in 1975, called 'The Handicapped Person in the Community.' It is intended primarily for people whose professional activities bring them into contact with the handicapped. It should also be of interest to some administrators, those engaged in vocational guidance and some voluntary workers.

The Open University's Post Experience courses are offered separately from the undergraduate programme and are designed for people who wish to update or extend their knowledge or gain an understanding of subjects related to their field. Course work includes the preparation of assignments which are graded with constructive comment by tutors. At the end of the course students may take an optional examination. Those who wish to be eligible for the University's course certificate need to have achieved satisfactory results both in continuous assessment based on course work and in the

examination.

As with all Open University courses, no qualifications are needed in order to apply. Students on the Handicapped Person in the Community course may expect to spend 10-12 hours per fortnight on course work, the basis of which is 16 specially written correspondence texts linked to radio and television programmes and certain set books.

Aspects to be studied will include the social effects of being considered "different," the person who becomes handicapped in adult life, the effects of a handicapped child on the family, and certain key periods in a handicapped person's life.

Treatment

The second block covers the special problems associated with different types of handicap, and what aids and treatment techniques are available. The third block examines education, occupational training and financial support for the handicapped, and the final part of the course looks at future prospects, including the place of voluntary organisations.

The work of the Society's Thomas Delarue School and the problems of an individual spastic will feature in the material to be studied.

The course will run for 32 weeks from February to November 1975. Applications will be accepted from now until October 1974. The cost of the course will be £55. The Open University's post-experience courses prospectus, together with application forms, are available from the Post-Experience Student Office, The Open University, P.O. Box 76, Milton Keynes MK7 6AN.

New "talking books" launched

The National Listening Library—which provides a "talking book" service to physically handicapped people who cannot read or handle books in the ordinary way—introduced on June 11 the first recordings which it has made itself. Until now the Library has relied wholly upon recordings made by the Royal National Institute for the Blind, which runs a similar service for blind people.

The new "books" are Tom's Midnight Garden by A. Philippa Pearce, recorded by Judith Whale; The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien, recorded by Alvar Liddell; and The English by J. B. Priestley, recorded by Eric Gillett.

Cassettes of these three taped books were handed over by their readers to the Chairman of the National Listening Library, Miss Mary Greaves, at a London reception.

'Forgotten' patients offered friendship

Patients condemned to spend many years in long stay subnormality hospitals may, in some cases, have their first social contact with normal people if a new charity that has just been launched is successful.

Called One-to-One, the organisation is sponsored by The Spastics Society and other charities who have long campaigned for better treatment for patients in these hospitals. The idea is to organise a mass of volunteers to spend a day in the hospital on a one-to-one basis i.e. with each patient having their own volunteer friend for the day. There will be games, entertainments and amusements to help participants develop personal relationships.

Hostels

Long term aims are for the social contacts established in the hospitals to be continued, and for attention to be focused

on the plight of long stay patients who can become "forgotten people"—friendless and with no outside social contacts or interests. Eventually One-to-One hope to encourage authorities to build hostels within the community for some patients.

Full-time organiser is Jane Carver, former volunteer director of Community Services Volunteers. One-to-One is based at the Pembroke Square offices of The National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children, which is supporting the project.

The idea originated from Nigel Evans, who is undertaking research into ideas for improving Health Education. As part of a Churchill Fellowship he went to the United States, where he saw a scheme similar to One-to-One operating successfully. Working with him on the scheme is Graham Burn, a freelance journalist who is himself physically handicapped.

A pilot scheme was launched on June 29 at five hospitals. These are St. Margaret's, Birmingham; Prudhoe, near Newcastle; Turner Village, near Colchester; The Ida Darwin, Fulbourne, near Cambridge; and Harperbury, Radlett, Hertfordshire.

Ruth brings news from Australia



Among this summer's visitors at the Society's Family Services and Assessment Centre in Fitzroy Square, London, was an Australian tourist, Miss Ruth Neal, pictured above. On three months' holiday from her job in Brisbane, Miss Neal used the Fitzroy Square Centre as a base from which to make a series of coach tours to the Continent, Scotland and the West of England.

Miss Neal, who is slightly disabled herself, has worked for 15 years in the office of the Brisbane Spastics Centre, run by the Queensland branch of the Australian Cerebral Palsy Association. Since her father's death six years ago she has lived by herself in a flat. The building stands on a hill and, fortunately, escaped the recent Queensland floods, but Miss Neal says the roads were cut off on three sides and she was unable to go to work for several days.

The Brisbane Spastics Centre, she told Spastics News, provides education for 80 schoolchildren and nursery facilities for 30 children under school age. There is a separate residential home for 60 adults at New Farm, a suburb of Brisbane, and also a treatment centre where 200 children under the age of five are seen as outpatients every month.

A new chair for Rachel

Thanks to customers of a Gloucester pub, 10-year-old spastic Rachel Overthrow now has a brand-new wheelchair.

Some time ago Mr. Bill Glanville, landlord of The Flying Machine at Brockworth, asked the Gloucester Spastics Association whether there was anything special needed by members of the group. He was told that Rachel's old wheelchair was wearing out and was heavy for her to manoeuvre by herself, but there was a long waiting list for National Health Service chairs.

Various competitions were held at the pub and £82 was quickly raised to buy a lightweight model made at The Spastics Society's Meadway Works, Birmingham.

A new support group of The Spastics Society has been formed at Newbury, Berkshire. Its primary target is to discover, assess, and assist the needs of local handicapped children.

Award from Minister for White Lodge artists



Picture by courtesy of the Department of the Environment

Out of the 30 schools whose work was presented in a national exhibition of art in Trafalgar Square, London, recently, only one represented a school for the handicapped. This was a collage of autumn leaves and tissue-paper from the White Lodge Centre for the treatment and education of spastic children in Surrey.

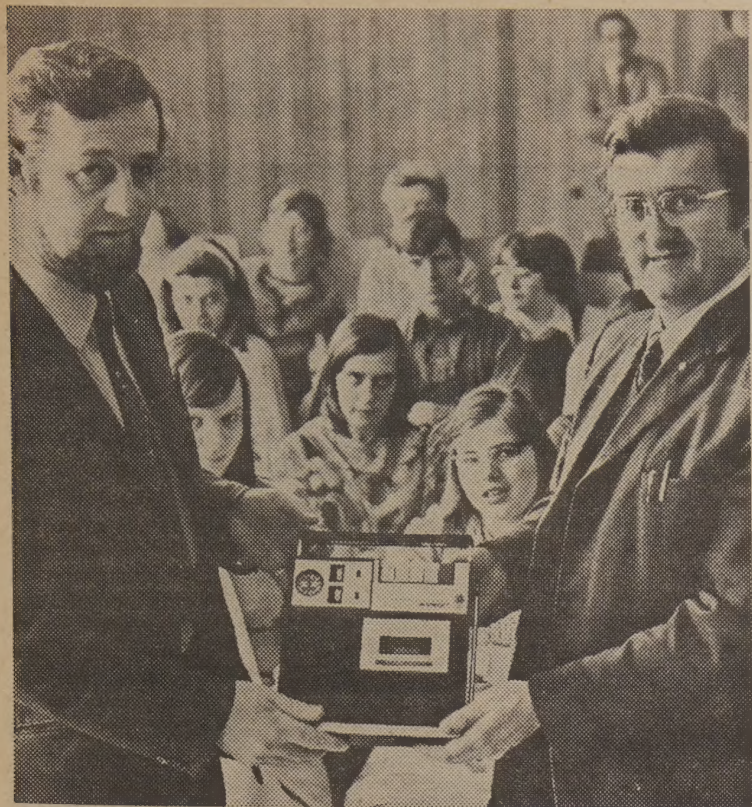
White Lodge's administrator, Mrs. Carol Smith, said: "We heard about the competition last September. It was part of Plant and Tree Year and spon-

sored by the Department of the Environment. Mrs. Celia Laundon's class of 10 severely physically and mentally handicapped children started to work collecting leaves and tissues. We were thrilled when we heard that the collage had gone on display at County Hall, Kingston. We were even more excited to hear that it had gone on show in Trafalgar Square. Work came from schools all over Britain, and only White Lodge was a special school."

Two children, Esther Lyons, aged seven, and six-year-old

Anne Twelvetrees made the journey to London to be presented with an award, a bronze medallion in the shape of a paper-weight from the Minister for the Environment, Denis Howell. The presentation is shown in the picture above. They also attended the reception at the House of Commons and helped plant a tree in Parliament Square.

"We made a big thing of it during the week of the display and small groups of children went up to London with their teachers to see the exhibition," Mrs. Smith added.



Mr. D. Houghton, left, Chairman of the Lancaster Round Table, presents a tape recorder to Mr. J. Parkinson, General Manager of the Society's Lancaster Training Centre.

The tape recorded will be used by the trainees in speech therapy sessions, so that they will be able to hear where they are not enunciating correctly.

Picture by courtesy of Lancaster Guardian

MELDRETH 'STARS' IN NEW FILM

A NEW colour film called 'Everybody's Children' has been made for The Spastics Society by Pendulum Films. With a commentary by Donald Houston, it demonstrates how children with the dual handicaps of cerebral palsy and severe mental subnormality are being helped at the Society's Meldreth Manor School, near Royston, Hertfordshire.

The film shows most clearly the tremendous patience and dedication of teachers, therapists and houseparents as, with gentle good humour, they encourage the children through the varied activities of the day.

'Everybody's Children' offers no easy solution to the problems of subnormality. It points out that while some children may be able to work and take their place in the outside world, the more severely handicapped will always need some kind of residential care. A few will probably end up in subnormality hospitals but at least, says the film, they will have gained something from "the Meldreth experience."

Their idea snowballed

WHEN pupils of Oakfield Middle School, Frome, Somerset, decided to hold a spring charity appeal for spastics, they planned to raise about £40, but the project snowballed as new ideas for fund-raising poured in and the final sum is expected to be nearer £200.

Some pupils stayed in to make sweets after school hours, while others ran competitions, cleaned cars and performed odd jobs. There were also many sponsored events such as walks, swims, hill climbs and "silences."

This August, the Ruislip Christian Council will once again be providing a holiday for 20 spastic children. The youngsters aged between eight and 12, will stay in a Ruislip church hall and be taken on excursions to Buckingham Palace, The Royal Mews, Windsor Safari Park, Chessington Zoo and other places of interest.

Susan will have a car —at last

IN last October's Spastics News we told how Susan Foster, a 25-year-old spastic student at Durham University, was fighting for an invalid car. Her appeals to the Ministry proved unsuccessful and eight months later, she is still making the difficult journey from home every day by bus to the scattered buildings of the University campus.

But help is in sight at last.

Camping club for disabled

A NEW camping club has been formed, specially designed to cater for the needs of the physically handicapped camper. It does not aim to provide organised camps, sleeping members in large dormitories and singing round the camp fire, as this aspect is well catered for already.

The Disabled Campers Club hopes to arrange at least four "Camp Meets" in different parts of the country each year. Wherever possible these will be held on normal camp sites, as the aim of the club is integration with the able-bodied. It is important that members attending these "Meets" bring their own equipment, and should bring a helper if any kind of personal assistance is required (with cooking, for instance).

Other services will include a Friends' Bureau, a quarterly news bulletin, and a possible discount scheme for the purchase of equipment. Annual subscription to the Disabled Campers Club will be £1 a year. Married couples count as one member.

For further details, please contact the Secretary of the Disabled Campers Club: Mr. F. J. Strong, 28 Coote Road, Bexleyheath, Kent.

Peterborough's market stallholders, the local ex-Servicemen's club and patrons of two city pubs have combined to raise £151.50 for the Society's Wilfred Pickles School. Some of the money was spent on toys, sweets and fruit for the children, and a cheque for £100 was presented to the school's matron. The money will probably go towards a new school bus.

Cheque for Norwich workers



Pupils of Loddon Secondary School, Norfolk, are pictured during a visit to the work centre run by the Norfolk and Norwich Spastic Association. The schoolchildren had raised £165 for the centre, and Colin Littlewood, is seen, right, handing a cheque for this amount to Jacqueline Adams.

Picture by courtesy of Eastern Evening News

Stephen's story: "Every day is a new adventure"

Winner of the Young Adults, male section, of The Spastics Society's recent literary contest for spastics, was Stephen Tomlin, aged 21, of Ranelagh House, Blakenhall Gardens, Wolverhampton, who attends the Fernwood Work Centre, Wolverhampton. Lynda Lee-Potter, who judged the section, commented that Stephen had a "great natural ability to write about himself in a very detached way, totally lacking in self-pity." Unfortunately, we have had to compress Stephen's story, "Memories of happy times," for publication.



Stephen Tomlin

MY earliest childhood days were spent living in a large house on the edge of Cannock Chase. I had a sister much older than myself and she used to take me for walks over the hills. We had wonderful times in the winter when the snow came, tobogganing down the steep slopes and making snowmen. I could run and climb then and enjoyed myself very much. When time for school arrived I had to travel into Stafford by bus. After a year it was noticed I was not very steady on my feet, and gradually my balance became worse. I was eventually examined and it was agreed that I was a spastic.

Operation

Gradually I found more and more difficulty in walking, and after much physiotherapy I had an operation on my feet which did help a little. I enjoyed my schooldays and I was helped a lot by my fellow pupils and teachers. I could no longer take myself to school by bus, and was taken in a taxi every day. I tried to keep up with my age group, but my right hand is rather slow, and I found myself unable to write very clearly or fast. Eventually I had to walk with the aid of elbow crutches which made steps a great problem. I hoped, when I left school and went to the College of Further Education, I would learn enough to get a job to become self-supporting. Soon after I started there, my father died rather suddenly and my mother and I were alone.

Driving

About three months before my father died, I had been offered the use of an Invacar. I was delighted because I realised that I could become quite independent and take myself about when I needed to, without having to rely on ambulances and friends, etc.

I learnt to drive and took myself every day to the spastics headquarters, where I did handicrafts and other activities. I still hoped to work one day, but I knew that I was getting less able to walk at all, and I got rather miserable and depressed. On my last visit to the specialist at hospital he had told me that he didn't think there was anything more that he could do. There didn't seem to be much for me to look forward to. Every day and every week would be just the same, nothing to look forward to at all.

Suddenly, one day it was

More than £140 was raised in Edinburgh as a result of six fashion shows organised by one of Scotland's leading furriers, Mr. Arnold Sefter, at his showrooms in Marchmont Crescent, Edinburgh.

men at each station, and kind passengers talked to me often. In the following months I did this journey quite a few times. I learnt a lot about people then, particularly that the coloured porters and guards were always so cheerful and good-natured.

I was also beginning to suffer more physical disability, but I took part in the Regional Spastics Games and did well enough to compete at Stoke Mandeville. This was to me the best thing that I had ever done. I took part in four events and won three, I was third in the other one. I was so proud when I received my certificates.

My work

I was not doing so well at work, though, and got very tired every day. I began to feel that I was doing my best, but not getting on very well, and that I should have done better if I had tried to do something different, such as working in the engineering shop. It was agreed that I should try there and see if I could manage some of the lighter jobs. I liked the work and the instructors were very helpful to me, but it was as much as I could do assembling some small parts, and my time at Lancaster came to an end and I knew that I'd learnt a lot. Not enough to earn a living, but how to live with my disabilities. How to make the best of what I have and to think and act for myself. I have not been able to earn a living since I came home as I have been in hospital for some of the time, but even that was easier to bear because I had become used to being with other people. I made a lot of friends in hospital and found the company of men very helpful.

Now my greatest pleasure is driving my car. I know that no one is really completely independent, we all need someone in some way. I try to do my share by being cheerful and happy, and doing what I can for myself whenever I can.

Every day is a new adventure, it's still great to be alive. It was a great summer and it changed my life. I failed in some of my ambitions, and succeeded in others, but I'm still learning.

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Tony Moore, the community assistant, gets some assistance from his son, Peppi, in caring for the gardens.

In just one community grew up in London

HABINTEG is a revolutionary housing experiment, a down-to-earth commonsense idea, and to Chris and Steve Mackenzie a dream come true. In June, Habinteg celebrated its first birthday, and could look back on a year of triumph and achievement in its aim to integrate the disabled into the able-bodied community.

The only housing association of its kind in this country, Habinteg is sponsored by The Spastics Society, and the then Prime Minister, Mr. Edward Heath, officially opened the first Habinteg development at Moira Close in North London on June 27 last year.

Named after Mr. Alex Moira, a founder member and now Vice-Chairman of The Spastics Society, it has in 12 short months developed into a very special kind of community with a close-knit "village" atmosphere.

Easy access

Disabled can come and go as they please—for there are no flights of steps to be negotiated, doorways in each of the 58 dwellings are wide enough to admit a wheelchair, and there is an emergency alarm system in case of accidents. And all the work has been achieved within the budget of a local authority for ordinary housing.

Said Chris Mackenzie at No. 22: "We're very pleased with life here. There was a time when I never imagined that I would have a husband and a home of my own."

Chris, aged 26 and the eldest in a family of seven girls and one boy, is a spastic. So is her husband Steve, who was able-bodied until an operation eight years ago at the age of 21 left him handicapped. There was tremendous opposition to their marriage for a time from many quarters and they were engaged for five years until their wedding just over a year ago.

Pictures of the wedding form part of a Habinteg exhibition going all over the world. And visitors from all over the world come to Chris. For she has the show flat for the whole community, and her visitors' book

year a "village"



Habinteg residents meet for a chat in the sun. Ron Puttock with his wife Jean, and son Peter, with Chris. Habinteg gets its name from the Latin tag Habitat integran — integrated housing.

is filling up nicely. Unfortunately she did not have it in time for her first important guest—Mr. Heath. He dropped in for a "cuppa and a chat" after the Habinteg opening ceremony. However, he did sign a photograph of himself with the Mackenzies, which takes pride of place in the volume.

Said Chris: "My speech used to be dreadful. When I first came here, Mr. Moore, the community assistant, couldn't understand a word I said. Now it's improved and I can speak much more clearly because I'm talking to so many different people."

Between her marriage and moving into the flat, the Mackenzies lived in a caravan. "It was terrible—the day we moved out I fainted. I like everything here—except for the ceiling heating. That's a bit expensive."

The Mackenzies live on

Steve's wage. As a capstan operator he earns £20 a week. "I think it's a disgusting wage for a married man. We have to watch every penny and it means we go without a lot of things."

Life will soon take on further problems, for Steve is to be made redundant. His firm is moving and the distance will be too far for him to travel.

Home help

Their day starts at 6 a.m. "Steve gets up to make the breakfast because he is quicker than I am, and I get up with him. He leaves at 7.30 a.m. and I do a bit round the flat. I have a home help who comes three times a week and does most of the housework."

She would quite like to go out to work, but in the meantime is busy enough at home.

Everything in Chris's kitchen is geared to make her tasks as easy as possible. All the equipment—much of it from Sweden where there is an enlightened view of integrating the handicapped with the able-bodied—is at wheelchair height. Less obvious but equally important features are those like the "broom cupboard - cum - wardrobe" which is big enough to take a wheelchair or two. The light switches at wheelchair level can be operated with the minimum of pressure from the least dexterous of hands. Doors slide or fold back to make them easy for a wheelchair.

The third member of the household is Sandy the tabby cat. He is totally unmoved by his mistress's handicap which occasionally gives him a rough ride when he settles down for a cat-nap on her lap. "He's a lovely creature," said Chris fondly. Having a handicapped owner, however, can have its disadvantages even for a docile creature like Sandy—"I ran over his tail once with the wheelchair—he didn't half spit at me."

A family

Eventually Chris and Steve plan to have a family. "We both want children very much, but I think we'll stick at two," she said. In the meantime they will concentrate on Steve's studies. Now that he will be unemployed he means to start working through 'O' and 'A' levels for a B.Sc. degree.

The Moira Close Estate does not have a caretaker, but a community assistant, Tony Moore, who, with his wife Linda, cares for the needs of the able-bodied and disabled alike. Of the 58 homes, 17 are occupied by families which include one or more handicapped members. A former ambulance driver, Tony is very happy with his new role.

He is a bit of everything: public relations man, shoulder-to-crier and one-man accident-repair-unit, as well as keen gardener. He answers the emergency calls—the electronic system has so far called him out 30 times. "It is usually someone falling out of a wheelchair or a bed, or a burn—and usually at night!" His wife attends to the office side, such as the rents, as well as caring for their three children.

More "Habintegs" are planned and, if they follow the pattern of Moira Close, they should prove a success. As Tony Moore pointed out: "This is a very happy community, and by mixing the able-bodied with the disabled it makes the able-bodied realise that the handicapped are just the same as they are."



A look back to the official opening day when Mr. Edward Heath popped in to share a cup of tea with Steve and his bride of a month, Chris.

M.B.E. for Welsh pioneer



Mr. Paton

MR. W. J. H. "Bill" Paton, an honorary life member of The Spastics Society, and a pioneer in the fight to provide services for spastics, was awarded the M.B.E. in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. The honour has delighted his many friends throughout the Society and its local groups.

Mr. Paton, a parent of a spastic, was founder member of the Swansea and District Spastics Association in 1952, and until his retirement last year was Honorary Secretary for 21 years. During the early days of the group he waged many battles with authority in an attempt to gain provision for

the spastic children and adults in the area. The Association moved quickly, and within a year of its inauguration had established the first day school for spastics in Wales. Today its Longfields centre incorporates day care facilities, a work centre and family help unit, and is recognised as one of the most progressive in the country.

His journeys

Bill Paton was a member of The Spastics Society's Executive Council, and at one time a Vice-Chairman. His visits to London to attend meetings involved him in round journeys of over 700 miles, and his many hours of voluntary work were in addition to his strenuous career as a journalist. He retired last year after 50 years in newspapers, and his fellow journalists gave him the accolade of life membership of the National Union of Journalists.

Happily, Mr. Paton still continues his long and dedicated service to the cause of the handicapped and is still an executive committee member of the Swansea and District Spastics Association.

Photo by courtesy of W. H. Jennings

A "disaster" for charities

Continued from Page 1

Although local authority lotteries could seriously affect charitable pool revenue, any benefits accruing to ratepayers could well prove to be only very marginal, and could in effect turn into deficits. The 40 per cent rate of duty, coupled with the necessary 50 per cent for prizes and administration would leave only 10 per cent for local funds, but even that 10 per cent hand-out is dependent on expert administration and know-how. Certainly it is safe to assert that any profits would not be used to bring down rates, but would be spent instead on prestige projects. Conversely, no one to date has explained who would bear any loss on abortive local authority lotteries, though it

must be assumed that it would be the long suffering ratepayer.

The Society feels too that the generous British public which has brought so many charities into being should be told whether the Government intends to exempt voluntary bodies from its proposed wealth tax. The importance of such exemption is demonstrated when it is considered that The Spastics Society and its voluntary local groups run between them over 140 schools and centres for the handicapped. If the market value of the centres was to be aggregated for any wealth tax purposes the cost to the Society would be catastrophic. The only way to meet the tax would be to sell properties.

Mr. Loring believes that the Government must now take a searching look at the ways it can help voluntary bodies maintain and expand their incomes, and he warned: "Social service charities in this country have long been regarded as an essential part of national services. Any reduction in their work will throw a heavy extra burden on the already overstretched State-run system."

"If charities should be placed eventually in the position where they would have to say to the State, 'All right, now you take over,' this would undoubtedly prove to be the last straw that would break the backs of the ailing local authority, educational and social services camels."